



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005

No. 26

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

IN DEFENSE OF THE POSTING OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last week a few of us had the opportunity to attend the opening arguments at the United States Supreme Court for two cases about the public display of the Ten Commandments.

These cases are very interesting because not only are they specifically about the Ten Commandments, but in a larger sense, they are about the long-running dispute over the so-called separation of church and state. I say so-called, because there is not one word in the Constitution that mentions this alleged separation of church and state.

And for over 150 years, the Supreme Court barely referenced this infamous phrase at all. The establishment clause of the first amendment provides that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." For over 150 years, this was commonly understood to mean that the Federal Government cannot establish a national religion as the English did with the Anglican Church.

But ever since cases like *Everson* in 1947; *Engel*, 1961; *Lemon*, 1971; and

Wiseman in 1992, a handful of judges have interpreted the first amendment's establishment clause, misinterpreted, I might add in my view, to exclude more and more expressions of religion from the public square.

Now we are at the point where children are not allowed to pray in public schools. The mildest nonsectarian invocations are forbidden at public events, the Boy Scouts are ostracized for mentioning God in their oath, and even the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance are under fire.

Perhaps these Ten Commandments cases will be the turning point in the legal war against religion. We need to have a commonsense approach towards the relationship between religion and the State. That is why I was particularly interested to hear Justice Scalia's take on this case.

He was his usual straightforward and honest self in his questions. He asked the ACLU lawyer, "If a legislature can open its session with the public present with a prayer, why can it not, in the same building, post the Ten Commandments?" He also called the Ten Commandments "a symbol of the fact that Government derives its authority from God, which seems to me an appropriate symbol to put on Government grounds."

Justice Scalia also logically noted that those who oppose the Ten Commandments on public grounds would "also think that Thanksgiving proclamations are also unconstitutional, which were recommended by the very first Congress, the same Congress that proposed the first amendments."

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that the American people care about deeply. In fact, according to a recent AP poll, 76 percent of Americans support these religious displays, which Justice Scalia alluded to when he said the Ten Commandments send "a profoundly religious message, but it is a profoundly religious message believed in by a vast majority of the American people."

The irony of the Supreme Court hearing on these cases last week and of the outright hostility that the Court has displayed against religion in recent years is that above the head of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is a concrete display of the Ten Commandments.

And close to these commandments is a marble sculptured relief of Moses himself, the great lawgiver. And let us not forget that at the beginning of each session at the Court, the crier opens with the proclamation: "God save the United States and this Honorable Court."

I agree with Justice Scalia and with the vast majority of the American people. In fact, to quote former Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas: "We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a supreme being." That is why I have introduced legislation to display the Ten Commandments in the Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that the Ten Commandments are a historical document that contains moral, ethical, and legal truisms that any person of any religion or even an atheist can recognize and appreciate. They present a concise set of values that represent the moral background of this Nation and our common view on right and wrong.

I believe that they promote a commitment to decency, which is why I have them hanging in my office. We start off every day with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Over the Speaker's rostrum it is posted, "In God we Trust."

There are statues and representations of religious figures scattered throughout the Capitol and House buildings. Posting the Ten Commandments would fit right in and would merely serve to remind Members that

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H991

we have the responsibility as lawmakers to be as fair and just as possible. Certainly a reminder of God's law would be appropriate as we consider the Nation's laws.

SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we come to the floor to speak to the American public. Sometimes we come to speak to one another.

It is in that spirit of speaking to my fellow Members of Congress that I rise today. Like you, I was horrified when the pictures at the Abu Ghraib prison first came forward, and then the additional admission of abuse, mistreatment, indeed, torture at the hands of people that we were responsible for.

And it seems, Mr. Speaker, that this is not an isolated set of circumstances. Indeed, there are more stories coming out of torture and death of detainees, and of extraordinary rendition, where people the United States is concerned with, we allow them to be transported to other dictatorships where we know that they will be abused.

I have been horrified as the stories start to come out, broadly reported in the press; and from Amnesty International, and the Red Cross. I, like you, my fellow Members of Congress, am horrified that the United States would be lumped into the same categories as countries that we are trying to encourage to honor human rights. Syria, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia look to be countries where we have allowed people or sent them to be tortured.

This took on a decidedly local flavor for me as press accounts came out that a shadow, perhaps illegal dummy, front company, Bayard Foreign Marketing, LLC, in my home town of Portland, Oregon, was used to transport these people.

It appears to have been this company, organized in violation of Oregon law, to hide the true nature and breadth of this extraordinary rendition program. It is important for us as Members of Congress to be clear. Torture is morally wrong. It is not just a quaint idea that some people feel that it is morally wrong, but it is immoral.

Additionally, torture is a bad idea for intelligence purposes. The experts tell us that if you attempt to drown, beat, shock, freeze people, deprive them of sleep long enough, they will admit to almost anything you want them to admit to, but it is not the soundest basis upon which to base our intelligence decisions.

Furthermore, when prisoners are tortured, it taints the case against them; makes it impossible to bring them to justice in a court of law; and, sadly, it

puts Americans at risk. The reason that we obey these quaint notions against torture is not just because it is morally wrong but tactically it puts Americans at risk in uniform and not.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about how Congress can sit on the sidelines and let the press and human rights groups do our job. Well, actually, they can only do part of our job. They can get the truth out, and that ought to be something that each Member of Congress ought to be concerned about. But being able to fix abuses, to hold responsible parties accountable for violation of human rights, a United States policy and perhaps law, that is our job.

Mr. Speaker, in the history of this country perhaps a half billion Americans have lived; only 11,571 Americans have been privileged to be Members of Congress. Who do we represent in this matter? Yes, we listen to special interests, those with strong political voices. We listen to the voters. We listen to the press. But at the end of the day, the things that matter most to us, I am convinced, are our family, our friends, the outstanding men and women who work for us here on Capitol Hill, who are almost like family. How can we look them in the eye when such a cloud hangs over America's honor?

I strongly urge each of my colleagues to look deep into their hearts and think about what they are going to do to provide the answer to their friends, their family, their neighbors, their staff about what we are doing to protect America's honor and to protect the abuse of human rights wherever it may be.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today is International Women's Day, and I come before the body this morning to salute our Iraqi women friends. I have with me a group of e-mails that I have received the past couple of days from the Iraqi women that we have been working with; and they are expressing their thanks to our military men and women who have fought so diligently and have worked right alongside with them and with their country to help their country go through successful elections, to recognize the freedom that they have sought and that they have fought for and longed for for 30 years. So it is with great excitement today that they are communicating with us as a free people and as free women.

Not only are they grateful to our military, Mr. Speaker, they are grateful to those of us in the Congressional Iraqi Women's Caucus, from both sides of the aisle here in this body, a group that has come together to walk with them as they walk toward opportunity and hope and freedom.

I would like to express my thanks for the leadership in that caucus to our former colleague, Ms. Dunn, who put a tremendous amount of leadership in this, and to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), who are continuing to work and lead this group as we seek to help the Iraqi women.

I would like to share with the body some of the e-mails and some of the communication that has been expressed from these women as women and as free people to speak on International Women's Day.

This e-mail says: this is the second year Iraqi women have contributed to this important international gathering as free and independent people. They had a goal of 25 percent representation rights for women in the National Assembly in Iraq. Iraqi women have reached a target beyond that, with 31 percent representation. Spectacular. Spectacular.

□ 1245

Another, "Iraqi women are now in the future that we all dreamed of. Iraqi women are heroes. They deserve to be leaders. They deserve to participate in building the bright future for their children. We owe our brave brothers and partners their support and understanding. Together, we all celebrate the International Women's Day."

And another, "This day, March 8, is a sign of civilization and democracy. Let us celebrate together."

Another, "Your voice is reaching other countries in the Middle East. Our sisters in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Kuwait are also rising. People are speaking out and enjoying democracy. Congratulations to all, celebrating the spirit and courage and contributions of Iraqi women who have added to the vitality, the richness, and the diversity of Iraqi life. In this amazing transformation to democracy in our country, we must recognize women's historic accomplishments and always honor those who have left us behind to carry through."

Mr. Speaker, I am so encouraged by the voices of freedom that we hear in this budding democracy. I stand today to salute the Iraqi women and to encourage them as they continue to work toward freedom, hope and opportunity in their country.

NO PLAN FOR SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States, despite confusion in the press, does not have a plan to ensure the long-term financial solvency of Social Security. His privatization plan would actually reduce Social Security's income and accelerate

its financial problems. His privatization commission, which met a few years ago, did have some solutions to the financial solvency of Social Security. Generally, their preferred solution was to dramatically reduce future benefits, to change from wage indexing to price indexing, which means a young person who retires in 40 years would see generally a Social Security benefit reduced by 40 percent, far in excess of the predicted possible shortfalls that Social Security might have if we did nothing.

Now the President says he has not recommended that. He has not recommended dramatic reductions in benefits; it is just on the table. He has also said increasing the retirement age is on the table, and it is already programmed to go up to 67 by 2020. We are going to have people 70 years old logging in the Oregon forests and working other back-breaking jobs across America. But he says that is just on the table. He has not recommended that yet.

He did, in an encouraging manner, leave open the door a tiny bit to a fair solution, which would be lifting the cap on wages. Only people who earn less than \$90,000 a year pay Social Security taxes on all their income. He left that door open.

In fact, I have introduced a plan in the last 30 Congresses which would fully ensure the future of Social Security by lifting the cap, reducing taxes for those who earn less than \$94,000, and people who earn more than \$94,000 pay more in taxes. But that door was promptly slammed by the Republican leaders in Congress. No, they are not going to do that. That would benefit working people too much.

So we are back to the point where the Republicans do not have a plan to ensure the financial security of Social Security. They do have a plan to make it worse, to carve out resources, to redirect income from Social Security into a privatization plan.

Some people get excited when they hear privatization. They think: It is my money; I can do what I want with it. No. Here are the details. They are detailed in this proposal, very detailed. Wage earners can divert 4 percent, two-thirds of their contribution. They can divert it into government-chosen conservative, as the President says, index funds that will be managed by a company chosen by the government. You could not touch your money, could not borrow against it, like people in 401(k)s, or withdraw it early. The government would control the money until retirement, and then the government would compute a bill, and the bill would be how much your taxes would have earned in the Social Security trust fund plus inflation plus management fees, and they give you that bill.

If investments did not do well, the wage earners might end up writing a check to the Federal Government when they retired. No privatization account for them. Other people who did pretty

well will see they have to pay that money back to the government, and then the government will say your Social Security benefits are really low. This is the President's so-called privatization plan. The government would force, force people retiring to buy an annuity, to bring their Social Security benefit for their predicted lifetime up to the predicted poverty level. It would force people to do that. What a boon for the private insurance industry. Of course, these would not be guaranteed by anybody. You buy one of those plans. That insurance company goes broke. Sorry, you just lost everything.

So instead of an assured benefit under Social Security, taxpayers would be purchasing a very expensive annuity that does not have survivor's benefits, is not indexed for inflation, unlike Social Security, but then very few people maybe, according to a Wall Street Journal article a couple of weeks ago, none of the people in all probability, but maybe a few would do even better, and they could keep that extra money.

So we would undermine the guaranteed benefit indexed for cost of living with survivor's and disabilities benefits for all working Americans so maybe a few could do better, but the insurance companies could do a lot better. The brokers who manage the accounts could do a lot better, but other people would be left in the cold.

And what about survivor and disabilities benefits? They cannot talk about that, because it is impossible. You are 18 years old. You go into the so-called optional account. You save every penny you are allowed to invest. At 24, you are tragically hurt in an accident. You are not capable of working for the rest of your life, and you can withdraw your \$8,000 in your Social Security private account and live on that. No, you cannot.

We need to deal with disability benefits, survivor's benefits and financial problems of Social Security, and the President has not done that with his so-called privatization plan.

INCAPACITATED PERSONS LEGAL PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the legislation I have just introduced, the Incapacitated Persons Legal Protection Act, enrolled as H.R. 1151. This legislation's immediate intent is to deal with the issues surrounding Terry Schiavo.

I practiced medicine for 15 years prior to my election to the House of Representatives. I still see patients once a month, and I was involved in numerous cases involving situations like this.

Terry has been described in the press as being in a vegetative state, and I believe that she is not, absolutely that

she is not. The correct term to describe Terry Schiavo is brain-damaged, severely brain-damaged, but you can see her on videos. Now the judge will not let people such as myself go in there to see her even though the family would like me to be able to examine her. But according to the family, she is the same way. She is responsive. She will look at you, attempt to vocalize. She will attempt to kiss her parents.

The judge in the case, Judge Greer, has tried to dismiss these obvious behaviors indicating that she does have a higher level of functioning and she should not be described as vegetative, as primitive reflexes. And I would assert as a physician that it is extremely dangerous to walk down that kind of a path, where you have somebody with mental retardation, disability or any type of brain injury and you start ascribing obvious human-like behavior on the part of these individuals as being primitive reflexes and that these people are expendable.

Terry is under a court order to withdraw food and water. This is unprecedented in our legal history. Previous cases that received national notoriety, like the Karen Ann Quinlan case, involved family and physicians mutually recognizing that this person did not have a chance of surviving and wanting to withdraw, in the case of the Quinlan case, a respirator, and the court going along with it because the clinicians involved did not want to be prosecuted for manslaughter or murder.

In this case, there is a dispute. The husband wants to terminate food and water, and the family, in the form of the mother and father, vehemently being opposed to it.

The judge has stepped in, and I think he has made some clinical judgments that are not really founded in good clinical science. I am certain if doctors put an EEG on her, we would see extensive brain waves indicating activity in the visual cortex and in the speech centers, and she should not be defined as vegetative.

My bill, H.R. 1151, Incapacitated Persons Legal Protection Act, would simply extend to Terry Schiavo the same benefits currently afforded death row inmates, and she is under a death warrant, death by essential dehydration. It would allow her to receive legal representation, the same kind of legal representation that death row inmates receive. Currently, she does not have her own attorney. Her parents have an attorney. Her attorney has an attorney. Under this bill, she would get legal representation. It would allow for a more detailed review of the case.

As a clinician, she has gotten, to my knowledge, according to the family I have spoken to, no therapy since 1993. I know from having worked with stroke victims and therapists, you can sometimes give these people thicken liquids, and they are able to swallow. Evidently, Terry, prior to the termination of her therapy, was working with a speech therapist and was able to say a

few words. She may be able to survive without a tube.

Another important point I want to make here, there was a \$1.56 million medical malpractice settlement that was provided for her care. Much of that has been spent on legal fees trying to end her life. This is not a case where the State is spending a lot of money. The resources are there to take care of her needs in the future. Her parents do not want to see her dying of starvation and thirst. I think it is fully appropriate for us to step in, for her to have a right, the same right a death row inmate gets, and to allow, hopefully, review in front of a Federal judge reviewing all of the facts in this case. When doctors really look at the facts, I think it is very, very hard to justify ending her life in such a way.

So I would encourage all of my colleagues to sign on and support the bill and, most importantly, for our leadership on both sides of the aisle to allow expedited review. If not, her tube is scheduled to come out March 18.

THE VALUES OF DEMOCRACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, something terribly wrong has happened in the House of Representatives. I am not talking about, from a partisan standpoint, the Republican takeover in 1995, I am not even talking about the ascension of Newt Gingrich to the Speakership. What I am talking about is the ascension of a new kind of House leaders who have run this institution even as former Speaker Gingrich has said, not in the fairest possible way, basically in an unprecedented way. We have seen things in the House of Representatives in the last couple of years that we have literally never seen.

I want to tell a story and spell out what I mean by this one example. Beginning a couple of years ago, at 2:54 a.m. on a Friday in March, the House of Representatives cut veterans' benefits by three votes.

At 2:39 a.m. on a Friday in April, the House slashed education and health care benefits by five votes.

At 1:56 a.m. on a Friday in May, the House passed the Leave No Millionaire Behind tax-cut bill by a handful of votes.

At 2:33 a.m. on a Friday in June, the House passed the first round of the Medicare privatization bill by one vote.

At 12:57 a.m. on a Friday in July, the House eviscerated Head Start by one vote.

After returning from summer recess, at 12:12 a.m. on a Friday in October, the House voted \$87 billion for Iraq.

□ 1300

Always on a Thursday night, Friday morning, always in the middle of the night, always after the public has

turned their TV sets off and gone to bed and after most of the media which sits up there has left. As I said, always on a Thursday night, because if it gets in the paper at all, it would appear then in the Saturday paper, the paper that is the least read paper of the week.

That was just the beginning. Then came the Medicare vote. The final round of the Medicare vote took place in November. The debate began at midnight on a Friday night in November. The debate took 3 hours. The vote began at 3 a.m. Members of Congress are given this card, which we stick in a little black box on the House floor to vote. The votes as we all know are then recorded electronically. Almost all of us went down and cast our votes. Pretty soon after the vote was called at 3 o'clock in the morning, the privatization of Medicare, the most important piece of domestic legislation that probably anybody in this body had ever voted on, at 3 o'clock in the morning the vote began, as I said. We are normally given 15 minutes, an extra 5 minutes sometimes, to cast our votes. Normally not much more than that.

At 3:30 the vote was still on. At 4 o'clock, an hour after the vote had begun, an hour after most of us voted, the vote was 216 "yes" and 218 "no." At about 4:15, the Republican leadership, the Speaker of the House, the majority leader, the chairman of the committee that the gentleman from New Jersey and I are on that wrote the bill began to go around to recalcitrant Members of their party, Republican Members who had voted "no," trying to get them to change their vote. It is now 4:30. They woke up the President of the United States who from his living quarters at the White House got on the phone and began to try to lobby the 26 or 27 Members of the Republican side who had voted "no" on Medicare. They all stood their ground.

At about 4:45, the Republican leaders surrounded Nick Smith, a Republican from Michigan, who told his story on the radio the next day. He had already announced his retirement. His son was running for his seat. He was told that if he changed his vote, they would come up with \$100,000 for his son's campaign. When he said no, they said, if you do not change your vote, we will come up with \$100,000 for your son's opponent's campaign.

Congressman SMITH, under great duress with great courage, said, Nothing doing. Incidentally, his son later lost the primary. Finally, it is 5 o'clock. It is 216-218. It is 5:30. It is 216-218. It is 5:45 in the morning. It is still 216 "yes," 218 "no." Two hours and 55 minutes after the vote was called, two Republicans, one from Idaho and one from Arizona, came out of the cloakroom, walked down here, picked up one of these green cards, you cannot use the plastic electronic card that late in the voting, marked the card, changed their vote, sheepishly handed it to the House Clerk, the Speaker then gavelled the

vote closed, and that is how Medicare privatization passed.

We have seen in this body a new legacy of one-party rule, legislative strong-arming and abuses of power never before seen under leaders of either party in this House of Representatives, hiding votes from the American public under the cover of darkness. We spend plenty of time, Mr. Speaker, passing votes on naming post offices in the middle of the day and doing important controversial votes at night.

Mr. Speaker, this abuse of power has to stop.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, President Bush quickly stopped in on Westfield, New Jersey, to talk to a bunch of his supporters about his Social Security privatization proposal. The Westfield, New Jersey, stop was part of a 6-week push to convince Americans that the Social Security program faces an immediate crisis. The President did not do as well as he wanted, and so now he has hired a couple of public relations experts to run a war room at the Social Security Administration. The administration is also beginning a 60-day push to convince voters that his privatization plan is the best thing for both seniors today and young people tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush has failed in convincing Americans that his plan is the way to go because he has even admitted that privatization does nothing to fix the solvency problem Social Security faces in the year 2052. As the President goes around the country pitching his privatization plan, he continues to exaggerate Social Security's current fiscal state. Last Friday in Westfield, he claimed, "The safety net has a hole in it," and he continues to say that the whole system goes broke in 2042.

That is simply not true. Based on the most current estimates from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, Social Security is fully solvent until 2052, meaning that every benefit that has been promised to seniors, the disabled, and survivors can be paid through that year. Imagine that. There is no other government program that is fully funded for the next 47 years. And President Bush calls this a crisis?

The President is also wrong when he says the program goes broke in 2042, because, as I stated, it is not only fully solvent another decade after that, but what exactly happens in 2052? When President Bush says Social Security goes broke, most would believe there is no money left after 2052 in Social Security. After all, if you look at Webster's Dictionary, it defines "broke" simply as "penniless." Again, this is another

fabrication because even after 2052, the Social Security system would still have enough money to be able to pay out 80 percent of all guaranteed benefits. That does not sound broke to me: 100 percent to 2052, 80 percent after that. How is that a crisis? How is that broke?

Again, the President exaggerates the solvency of Social Security. But what has he proposed that will extend that solvency beyond 2052? The answer is, nothing, as of today. Last Friday in New Jersey, the President said, "We've got to make sure we save the safety net for future generations." But even the President has admitted that his privatization plan does nothing to extend the solvency of Social Security. In fact, because the President's plan would take money out of the Social Security trust fund to pay for these private accounts, Social Security would actually become insolvent more than 20 years earlier under President Bush's plan.

Mr. Speaker, for 70 years, Social Security has improved the lives of millions of Americans. Nearly 47 million people receive Social Security benefits, including more than 32 million retired workers. Of those, two-thirds receive more than half of their retirement income from Social Security, meaning that without the guaranteed benefit of Social Security, more than two-thirds of today's seniors would be living in extreme poverty.

Social Security gave our parents and our grandparents independence. Democrats, Mr. Speaker, are willing to work with the President in a bipartisan fashion to address Social Security's future, but we simply refuse to support the President's privatization proposal because it dismantles the independent Social Security program. Our seniors now have a guaranteed benefit. They would not have one if we adopt the President's plan. And it does nothing to solve the Social Security solvency problem, again, in 2052.

I think our seniors deserve better. We deserve a President that tells us the truth about what is going on. There is no crisis. Let us sit down together on a bipartisan basis and see what we can do to come up with a solution other than privatization.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend E. Terri LaVelle, Program Director, The Faith & Politics Institute, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

God of compassion, grace, mercy, reconciliation, we are coming boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need. Thank You for these, my brothers and sisters elected to serve the common good of all humanity. Give divine guidance and wisdom individually and collectively as they carry out their sworn duties.

Give them ears to hear, and hearts to discern what the needs are, and boldly meet the challenges even when it involves making hard and uncomfortable choices.

God, Your word states that You have not given us a spirit of fear but of love, power, and a sound mind. Empower this congressional body to operate in love, Godly power, and with sound minds. Your word says that we have been given the word and ministry of reconciliation.

Let these, Your servants called Congresswomen and Congressmen, be servants of reconciliation domestically and globally. In the name that is above every name, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT SECURE

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, you know Social Security is quickly becoming social insecurity for millions of Americans approaching retirement. Let us take a step back for a moment and take the politics and the pundits and rhetoric out of the debate, and let us examine the most overlooked aspect of what has been discussed thus far, the facts.

Fact: Social Security is safe for today's seniors, but is in serious danger for our children and our grandchildren. Fact: since the 1950s, the number of retirees has been rising faster than the number of workers. And fact: without reforms, Social Security is not sustainable in the long run.

Mr. Speaker, the system is not in crisis; the system is not in limbo. The system which worked well for many, many years is now broken.

Payroll taxes have been raised 20 times since the 1930s to keep the system functioning, and that is no longer an option. Soon Social Security will be paying out more than it takes in. No matter which side of the aisle you are on, if things continue the way they are, there will be no security for our children and our grandchildren.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Republicans in the Senate yesterday showed that they have no interest in helping millions of working families who clock 40 hours a week at their jobs for the minimum wage. Today, millions of hard-working Americans are working harder for less and less money.

Since the minimum wage has not increased in 8 years, these workers' paychecks are simply not increasing as the cost of living increases every year. Because congressional Republicans refuse to act, the real value of the minimum wage is not worth nearly as much as past minimum wages.

Consider that if a minimum wage this year provided the same wage to workers today, including cost-of-living adjustments, as it provided to workers in 1968, the minimum wage today would be \$3.88 per hour, rather than \$5.15 per hour. That is a big difference, and I believe working families living on the minimum wage feel the pinch every day.

Raising the minimum wage also raises the wages of all low-income workers, not just those below the poverty line. Mr. Speaker, Americans who work 40 hours a week should not be living in poverty. It is time congressional Republicans in both Houses join us in supporting an increase in the minimum wage.

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SECURITY NOW

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of President Bush seeking to strengthen our Social Security system.

When Social Security was conceived in the mid-1930s, the average age of life expectancy in the United States was 60. Today the average American's life expectancy is over 77.

Americans are now receiving benefits over longer periods of time because we are so grateful they are living longer. Our current Social Security system is financially broken, outdated, and unable to meet the retirement needs of our children and grandchildren.

If we fail to act now, we will burden further generations with dramatically higher taxes, massive new borrowing, or sudden and severe cuts to Social Security benefits or other government programs. In 1998, President Bill Clinton said, "My fellow baby boomers, let me say that none of us wants our own retirement to be a burden to our children and to their efforts to raise our grandchildren."

Seven years later, we still have not solved the problems facing Social Security.

Congress must act soon to provide younger Americans with retirement choices and strengthen benefits for today's retirees. We need to fix the system now, once and for all.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

REFORMING MEDICAL LIABILITY

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago this month, this House passed a meaningful bill to reform medical liability in this country. Since that time, of course, the other body has failed to even have a vote on this important piece of legislation, so now we are going to see this legislation again in this Congress.

But in the 2 years that have intervened, in my home State of Texas, we passed a bill and a constitutional amendment that allowed caps on noneconomic damages within the State of Texas. I think it would behoove this House to examine what has happened in the State of Texas since that time.

Since then, medical liability insurers have returned to the State. We had fallen from 17 insurers to two, and now we stand at 14, with several insurers having come back into the State with rates that were flat or, in fact, lower. In fact, Texas Medical Liability Trust, my old insurer of record, has dropped rates from 12 percent right after the constitutional amendment passed and

another 5 percent this year, for a total of 17 percent.

But most importantly, Mr. Speaker, the Cristus Health Care System in south Texas, a self-insured hospital system, realized a \$12 million savings in the first 9 months of this legislation, money that was put back into nurses' salaries, capital expansion, the types of things that we want hospitals to be doing, not paying for noneconomic damages.

THERE THEY GO AGAIN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Howard Dean, the new duly elected chairman of the Democratic Party, had quite a kick-off tour recently. He started off by making racially insensitive remarks about African Americans and Republicans. Then he said he "hates Republicans and everything they stand for." Next he told a group of activists in Kansas that Republicans are evil. The battle between Democrats and Republicans, he said, is a "struggle between good and evil, and we are the good."

It would be easy to write this off as just another Dean rant. But a woman in the audience, and remember, this is Kansas, hardly a left-wing bastion, said Dean did not go far enough. He was too conservative, she said.

Mr. Dean is the leader of a major political party. Even if his demagoguery is too timid for some activists, he represents the Democratic Party and its views, and his comments are yet further confirmation that the rhetoric of the left is eroding our political discourse.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL FRANCIS, A BRILLIANT AND BRAVE WRITER

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fellow Tennessean, but a man whom I never had the privilege of meeting. Samuel Francis was a nationally syndicated newspaper columnist and a leading voice of traditional conservatism. He passed away several days ago, just after the Congress had gone into recess, at the too-young age of 57 from complications after heart surgery.

No two people, not even husbands and wives or best friends, agree on everything; and I did not always agree with Sam Francis. But I admired his courage. He was politically incorrect on almost everything, which made him right on most things, but also very controversial. He was a leading critic of neo-conservatives, Big Government conservatives who really are not very conservative at all.

Raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Dr. Francis had a bachelor's degree

from Johns Hopkins and master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of North Carolina.

Sam Francis did not believe in world government and multiculturalism. He was a patriotic American who put his own country first and was a brilliant and brave writer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

PROVIDING AMOUNTS FOR CONTINUING EXPENSES OF STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE FROM APRIL 1, 2005 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 133) providing amounts from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for continuing expenses of standing and select committees of the House from April 1, 2005, through April 30, 2005, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 133

Resolved, That there shall be available from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives such amounts as may be necessary for continuing expenses of standing and select committees of the House for the period beginning on April 1, 2005, and ending on April 30, 2005, on the same terms and conditions as amounts were available to such committees for the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2005, and ending at midnight on March 31, 2005, pursuant to clause 7 of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives (or, in the case of the Committee on Homeland Security, on the same terms and conditions as amounts were available to such Committee for such period pursuant to House Resolution 10, agreed to January 4, 2005).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 133. It is a pleasure to be here today with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT); and I also want to mention our ranking member, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD). As we go through the process here, it is going to be a privilege and a pleasure to work with her and all the Democrats and Republicans on the committee to provide for the funding resolution.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of House Resolution 133, which provides interim funding for the standing select committees of the House from April 1, 2005, through April 30, 2005. The rules of the House provide interim funding for committees until March 31 of 2005. This resolution will extend that funding for an additional month, thereby allowing the Committee on House Administration the time needed to put together the committee funding resolution that will, once passed, fund the committees for the duration of the 109th Congress.

This is nothing unusual. We have done this in the past. The committee chairmen and ranking members will appear Thursday of this week and the following Wednesday to present their budget requests to the committee, and that will be all the committee Chairs.

As the House will be out of session for the final 2 weeks of March for the Easter district work period, floor consideration of the committee funding resolution really will not be practical or possible, therefore, before March 31; and, therefore, it necessitates passage of this interim funding resolution. That is why we are here today. I therefore urge my colleagues to support resolution 133; it is needed.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join the distinguished gentleman from Ohio in supporting House Resolution 133, providing interim funding for standing and select committees of the House through April 30, 2005.

As most chairmen and ranking members know, funding for House committees would expire March 31 without this resolution.

□ 1415

I would like to thank the chairman for ensuring the committees will have the resources to continue operating while the Committee on House Administration processes their funding requests for the 109th Congress.

President Woodrow Wilson from my home State of New Jersey said it well when he said here on the floor, "Congress in session is Congress on public exhibition, whilst Congress in its committee rooms is Congress at work."

Yes, we have to keep the committees going, and I support the chairman in this effort. The Committee on House Administration's ranking member, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD), who is returning from her district, has asked me to stand in for her and asked me to specifically relay that she is looking forward to working with the chairman on hearings this week and next week. She is especially keen to ensure that in this Congress committee minorities will receive at least one-third of all committee resources.

Now, I, speaking as a member of the Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards, which is commonly known

as the Franking Commission, am concerned about problems with the increased abuse of the frank by one or more committee chairs for blatantly, I would have to say, blatantly political purposes. And I am hopeful that the Committee on House Administration will address this issue through the upcoming Committee Funding Resolution and take appropriate action to stop any such abuses.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for supporting this resolution today and also look forward to working with the Congresswoman and ranking member.

When the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) chaired the Committee on House Administration, he pushed towards the one-third and always provided one-third at that time to the ranking member, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER). We have kept in that tradition, together with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) and also with the current ranking member, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD). I am very happy to say that last session, with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), we achieved the two-thirds/one-third, and we need to continue to do that. And I think that is the only fair way, and we need to evaluate how the two-thirds and one-third is split.

Again, with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), we did that. It was a great achievement that was started by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

As far as the issue of the committees, although I do not see any abuse that has occurred, as far as retooling the rules and regs of the House, we are always willing to sit and talk about that.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would say many Americans wonder why the resources for the committees are not divided one-half/one-half. Well, they should understand that it is traditional, now that the majority party would have most of the committee staff, most of the committee resources, and so two-thirds/one-third division has become traditional and that is what the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is hoping to achieve. I thank the chairman for his consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 133, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 133.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF A YEAR OF LANGUAGES

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 122) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the study of languages and supporting the designation of a Year of Languages.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 122

Whereas the people of the United States have growing social, cultural, and economic ties to the international community that present new challenges as the United States seeks to communicate with and understand international partners from different language and cultural backgrounds;

Whereas communities across the United States are welcoming many new neighbors, friends, employees, and citizens from many countries throughout the world;

Whereas increased language learning is a critical national interest and is necessary to maintain the economic edge the United States has in the worldwide marketplace;

Whereas developing a workforce that is skilled in languages and cultural understanding is vital for conducting international commerce;

Whereas both the 2000 Cox Commission and the National Intelligence Council have reported that a shortfall of experts in foreign languages, particularly the languages of Asia and the Middle East, has seriously hampered information gathering and analysis within the intelligence community of the United States;

Whereas studying other languages has been shown to contribute to increased cognitive skills, better academic performance, and a greater understanding of others, while also providing life-long learning opportunities;

Whereas language education in the 21st century includes a commitment to the study of long sequences of world languages, beginning in early grades and continuing throughout the academic career of an individual, in order to develop the levels of proficiency needed to effectively communicate with people from other cultures at home and abroad; and

Whereas the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, along with

its affiliate organizations, is urging the public to support increased language education for students, which will expand the cultural and literary horizons of adult learners and strengthen the position and security of the United States throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the study of languages contributes to the intellectual and social development of a student and the economy and security of the United States;

(2) there should be a Year of Languages in the United States, during which language study is promoted and expanded in elementary schools, secondary schools, institutions of higher education, businesses, and government programs; and

(3) the President should issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to—

(A) encourage and support initiatives to promote and expand the study of languages; and

(B) observe a Year of Languages with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 122.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 122. This resolution expresses the importance of foreign language study and supports the designation of a Year of Languages. Increased language learning is a critical national interest and is necessary to maintain the economic edge of the United States as well as serving to better secure our national interest abroad.

Currently, 9.3 percent of Americans speak their native language and another language fluently, compared to 52.7 percent of Europeans.

Foreign language education has long been determined to increase a student's cognitive and critical thinking abilities. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act names foreign language study as a part of a core curriculum, and the Higher Education Act denotes that foreign language study is vital to secure the future economic welfare of the United States. Therefore, language education in our Nation's schools should begin in early grades and continue throughout the student's entire academic career.

By designating a Year of Languages, this Congress highlights the importance of foreign languages and cultural understanding in our schools, our workforces and our society. The celebration of languages will serve as a

look to the future for Americans who will be entering the workforce at a time when international understanding, cross-cultural awareness and linguistic capacity are increasingly important for their success in the world.

In light of the attacks of September 11, 2001, the American intelligence community stresses that individuals with proper foreign language expertise are greatly needed to work on important national security and foreign policy issues. As we enter into a time that requires an increased understanding of world cultures, foreign language study and requisite knowledge in languages is vital for meeting 21st century security challenges properly, effectively and efficiently.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak at some length about this because it is really so important to our country. I would like to thank the leadership for allowing us to bring up this resolution which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the study of languages and supporting the designation of a Year of Languages. I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI) for co-sponsoring the resolution.

Under the guidance and guardianship of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, 2005 will be celebrated as the Year of Languages in the United States. These celebrations will take place in a variety of settings including elementary and secondary schools and post-secondary institutions as well as at events at local and State and national levels across America. It is an opportunity to focus on America's need to focus our attention on the social and economic benefits of studying other languages and cultures around the world and on the importance of these studies to our national security.

This initiative will seek to influence the full range of language programs in the United States schools and communities, and I think the campaign plan will capture the attention and, I hope, the interest of all Americans with the involvement and assistance of teachers, administrators and local officials. If the United States is going to continue to play an important role in the global economy and in the business world and to be the leader politically, and I would say militarily, we must be able to understand and communicate with other cultures around the world.

According to a 2002 survey from Healthy Companies International, the average number of languages spoken by American business executives is less than one and a half, compared with say 3.9 languages spoken on average by business executives in the Netherlands.

The goals of the Year of Languages are four: To expand the public's understanding of the role of language in all

aspects of people's lives, in society and in the future of human and international relations; to promote the importance of language learning and language proficiency, urging every American to commit to learning other languages; to build awareness of the diversity of languages that now play an integral part of everyday life in our country; and to promote the formation of a national task force to study and strengthen national policy on language learning and teaching and to make recommendations to strengthen U.S. policy.

Some members of the public and the media might question why, with our unparalleled military and economic power, Americans need to learn languages of the world. Does not everyone speak English anyway? So they say.

Well, the reasons to launch a government-wide effort to build a pipeline of professionals with advanced foreign language capabilities, I think, should be self-evident to Americans. Let me quote a statement. "The United States today carries new responsibilities in many quarters of the globe, and we are at a serious disadvantage because of the difficulty of finding persons who can deal with the foreign language problems."

Those are not my words. Those are the words of former U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, spoken in 1953. What was true in the post-World War II world of 1953 is even more true in the post-9/11 world of 2004 and 2005.

Our national deficiency in the languages and cultures of critical areas around the world is compromising American security interests. And in addition to diminishing our opportunities economically and culturally, the deficiency is making our troops overseas more vulnerable and, I would argue, the American people less safer.

A few years after John Foster Dulles spoke these words, Russia launched a small beeping sphere above the Earth known as Sputnik. Americans were shocked, even fearful, and Congress, saying America would never be caught flat-footed again, passed the National Defense Education Act in 1958 that did much to overhaul the teaching of science and math and also provided some assistance for the study of languages.

September 11, 2001, was also a wake-up call for us. If we fail to address one of the most serious problems facing our Nation, we will not have risen to the challenge of September 11, 2001. The 9/11 joint inquiry reported a year and a half ago that our intelligence community is at 30 percent readiness in languages critical to national security. A State Department commissioned report from a year ago found that our government has only 54, or at that time, only 54 genuine Arabic speakers working in the entire Foreign Service.

A year or so ago, I asked David Kay, the former head of the Iraq Survey Group, how many on his 1,400 member team spoke Arabic and understood the

technology of weapons of mass destruction. Well, he said he could count on the fingers of one hand.

I posed similar questions to some members of the special forces who had been combing the mountains of Afghanistan looking for Osama bin Laden. I asked how many of them spoke Pushtu. Well, they responded, they had picked some up during the year they had been there. Although our special forces represent some of the best trained forces in the world, we are clearly not giving them the skills they need. If Osama bin Laden is truly American public enemy number one, how do we expect to track him down if we cannot speak the languages of the people who are hiding him?

As Dr. David Chu, the U.S. Undersecretary of Defense, said in his opening remarks at the National Language Conference last June, we need "a permanent change in our approach to the peoples and cultures of the rest of the world."

□ 1430

Our need to understand the world is a prime national security concern.

He went on, "National security concerns have taken us from the streets of Manhattan to the mountains of Afghanistan and to the resort cities of Bali. Our economy has brought workers here to America and sent jobs to 100 countries around the world. Our health is affected by conditions and events in China, Britain, Africa and South America. Criminal cartels and corrupt officials hundreds of miles beyond our borders have an immediate impact on our streets, in our schools and our homes. Within one generation, we have become integrated into the world as never before." Those are the words of the Undersecretary of Defense Dr. Chu.

While the Defense Department, the State Department and our intelligence agencies have recently turned their attention to the language problem, their approach remains focused on immediate needs. They are stepping up recruitment efforts, and they are expanding the language education programs in Monterey, here in Washington and elsewhere, and these are promising and necessary changes, but they only scratch the surface.

They do not deal with the problem of the pool. From what pool will they be recruiting the linguists for the Defense Department, the State Department, our intelligence agencies?

The root of the problem, I think, is in our schools. If we are to address adequately the language shortage in the Federal Government, we have to look past the issues of immediate recruitment and foreign language training. Federal language schools are building on a poor language foundation. We must design and implement a Federal language strategy that begins at the earliest years of education and continues through college.

Mr. Speaker, consider the following facts: Al Qaeda and similar terrorist

elements operate in over 75 countries where hundreds of languages and dialects are spoken. However, 99 percent of American high school, college and university programs concentrate on a few, mostly European, languages. According to figures from a couple of years ago, 2002, more college students study Ancient Greek than Arabic, Korean, Persian, Pashto and a number of other languages put together. Nothing against Ancient Greek, but certainly it is an important area of study, but the shortage of training in Arabic, Korean, Persian, Pashto and a long list of others should be cause for concern.

Out of 1.3 million graduates at America's colleges and universities, 17, two years ago, earned a bachelor's or advanced degree in Arabic, according to the Department of Education, 17. In Chinese, the language spoken by billions of people, 217 degrees were granted, according to the Department of Education. That is compared with almost 3,000 in French, more than 8,000 in Spanish. We need to improve not just the number of degrees but the quality of education throughout the educational years.

In addition to the resolution before us today, I have introduced the National Security Language Act, legislation that would expand the Federal investment in education in foreign languages of critical need. It would provide Federal incentives for high school students to study languages in college. It would give universities resources to expand language programs overseas, and it would identify Americans with preexisting language abilities for recruitment.

The bill would create an international flagship language initiative that would provide Federal grants to specific universities and colleges to establish high-quality, intensive, in-country language study programs in countries around the world. It would establish a science and technology advanced language grant program for institutions of higher education to establish programs that encourage students to develop foreign language proficiency as they study science, engineering and other technologies.

The bill would provide loan forgiveness of up to \$10,000 for undergraduate students in foreign languages. It would encourage early northern language studies by establishing grants for foreign language partnerships between local districts and foreign language departments at institutes of higher education.

It would create a commission of national study of foreign language heritage and a Federal marketing campaign to identify heritage communities with native speakers of critical foreign languages and market to them the need to pursue the study of languages.

I believe the next step then would be to increase the supply line of students who have strong language skills, and this can only be done through the K-through-12 system. The Council for

Basic Education recently released a study. Foreign language instruction experienced decreases in instructional time as reported by principals, particularly in high minority schools. Whereas in low minority schools, 9 percent of the principals reported a decrease in time spent studying languages; 11 percent reported an increase. But in minority schools, schools with a high proportion of minority students, there was a 23 percent decline in instructional time, with only 9 percent of the principals reporting an increase. In other words, this is also a matter of our educational divide in this country.

In addition to developing a lifelong ability to communicate with people from other countries and backgrounds, other benefits include improved overall school performance and improved problem solving skills. Students of foreign languages tend to score higher on standardized tests. And results from the Scholastic Aptitude Test show that students who had studied a foreign language for 4 or more years outscored other students on the verbal and math portions of the test. This is according to the college board SAT as reported in 2003.

Knowledge of a second language also seems to coincide with high academic achievement. It is not just whether a school has a rigorous program, although certainly that helps, but time spent in studying foreign languages means that students earn better grades in college and are less likely to drop out.

There are all sorts of reasons to study foreign languages, and studying the language, learning a language at any age is beneficial. Some studies have shown that the brain is more open to linguistic development in the early years. I have certainly seen that in my own grandchildren and children. When children have an early start to a long sequence of language instruction that continues through high school and college, they will be, studies have shown, able to achieve levels of fluency in that and to pick up other languages. Nevertheless, older children and adults can still be successful at learning a second or third or fourth language. Although the level of attainment is a little more predictable for us older learners, it is still worth doing.

In 1958, as I said, Congress responded to Sputnik by passing the National Defense Education Act. It focused on science and engineering and, to some extent, on languages. Immediately after September 11, Americans found themselves once again facing a Sputnik moment. Americans realized that we were caught flatfooted and unprepared to deal with not just hatred around the world but hatred that was turned into vicious attacks.

We need a national commitment to languages on a scale of the NDEA, the National Defense Education Act, and Mr. Speaker, I think today's resolution that will, among other things, recognize 2005 as the year of languages is a

start toward making that commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, may I ask the time remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS), my colleague.

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 122.

For years, we have known that, to be competitive in the world, Americans must acquire the language capacity to speak with our counterparts. Personally, for myself, when my husband was stationed in Japan during the Vietnam War, we lived in a Japanese community, and with my toddler and baby there, I learned some minimal Japanese so that I could speak with and spend time with my neighbors in a way that was really meaningful to both of us. We became friends, and the importance of language study became so real to me in those days.

In San Diego, we are keenly aware that so many of our residents are bilingual. Indeed, in our schools, students come from homes where English is not spoken. Over a hundred languages are represented in our schools.

As a school board member, I have worked hard to develop better training of foreign language instructors and to bring in more initiatives that recognize the diverse languages in our schools, but I must say that that issue really did not progress nearly as much as I would like, and in fact, today, we still have issues around certifying teachers in many different languages.

Critically, we are also so aware that our service members must be equipped with even the basic ability to speak with the citizens of Iraq and with the citizens of Afghanistan. So I am proud that our service personnel in Camp Pendleton are now being given that very introductory language instruction from our higher education institutions.

It is clearly appropriate that we establish a year of languages to focus on the importance of developing proficiency in a language other than English, and it must be a strong initiative that we bring forward. It will only be meaningful, however, if we only move forward and we develop a kind of strategic plan so that we find the resources, and more than anything, we find the will to make foreign language development an integral part of our daily lives.

I salute my colleague for bringing this forward. I thank him very much because I think it has to be the kind of initiative that goes beyond many of

our dreams for this area. It must have the kind of applicability that says this is important to us; this is important to our country.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I am delighted to hear that my colleague has studied Japanese.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues pass this resolution and work with me on other language projects to see that we address this Sputnik moment that this country faces and that we work hard to address our poor, I would use that word, language proficiency here in the United States, for reasons of culture, for reasons of economics and for reasons of national security.

I urge the passage of H. Res. 122.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 122.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1445

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary group:

Mr. MANZULLO, Illinois, Chairman

Mr. MCCOTTER, Michigan, Vice Chairman

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1832

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 3, TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure may file a supplemental report on the bill, H.R. 3, to authorize funds for federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes, at any time before midnight, March 8, 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on approving the Journal, and on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Approval of the Journal, de novo.

House Resolution 133, by the yeas and nays.

House Resolution 122, by the yeas and nays.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15 minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 29, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 53]

YEAS—378

Abercrombie	Beauprez	Boehner
Ackerman	Becerra	Bonilla
Aderholt	Berman	Bonner
Akin	Berry	Bono
Alexander	Biggert	Boozman
Allen	Bilirakis	Boren
Andrews	Bishop (GA)	Boswell
Baca	Bishop (NY)	Boustany
Bachus	Bishop (UT)	Boyd
Baker	Blackburn	Bradley (NH)
Barrett (SC)	Blumenauer	Brady (TX)
Bartlett (MD)	Blunt	Brown (OH)
Barton (TX)	Boehlert	Brown (SC)

Brown, Corrine	Graves	Michaud	Smith (TX)	Thomas	Waxman	Brown-Waite,	Goodlatte	McGovern
Brown-Waite,	Green (WI)	Millender-	Smith (WA)	Thompson (CA)	Weldon (FL)	Ginny	Gordon	McHenry
Ginny	Green, Al	McDonald	Snyder	Thornberry	Weldon (PA)	Burgess	Granger	McHugh
Burgess	Green, Gene	Miller (FL)	Sodrel	Tiaht	Westmoreland	Burton (IN)	Graves	McIntyre
Burton (IN)	Grijalva	Miller (MI)	Solis	Tiberi	Wexler	Butterfield	Green (WI)	McKeon
Butterfield	Gutierrez	Miller (NC)	Souder	Tierney	Whitfield	Buyer	Green, Al	McKinney
Buyer	Hall	Miller, Gary	Spratt	Turner	Wicker	Calvert	Green, Gene	McMorris
Calvert	Harman	Mollohan	Stearns	Upton	Wilson (NM)	Camp	Grijalva	McNulty
Camp	Harris	Moore (KS)	Strickland	Van Hollen	Wilson (SC)	Cannon	Gutierrez	Meehan
Cannon	Hart	Moran (KS)	Sullivan	Velázquez	Wolf	Cantor	Gutknecht	Meek (FL)
Cantor	Hastings (WA)	Moran (VA)	Sweeney	Visclosky	Woolsey	Capito	Hall	Melancon
Capito	Hayes	Murphy	Tancred	Walden (OR)	Wu	Capps	Harman	Menendez
Capps	Hayworth	Murtha	Tanner	Walsh	Wynn	Capuano	Harris	Mica
Cardin	Hensarling	Musgrave	Tauscher	Wamp	Young (AK)	Cardin	Hart	Michaud
Cardoza	Herger	Myrick	Taylor (NC)	Watson	Young (FL)	Cardoza	Hastings (FL)	Millender-
Carnahan	Hinojosa	Nadler	Terry	Watt		Carnahan	Hastings (WA)	McDonald
Carter	Hobson	Napolitano				Carter	Hayes	Miller (FL)
Case	Hoekstra	Neal (MA)				Case	Hayworth	Miller (MI)
Castle	Holden	Neugebauer				Castle	Hefley	Miller (NC)
Chabot	Holt	Ney				Chabot	Hensarling	Miller, Gary
Chandler	Honda	Northup				Chandler	Herger	Miller, George
Chocola	Hostettler	Norwood				Chocola	Hinchey	Mollohan
Clyburn	Hoyer	Nunes				Clyburn	Hinojosa	Moore (KS)
Coble	Hulshof	Nussle				Coble	Hobson	Moran (KS)
Cole (OK)	Hunter	Obey				Cole (OK)	Hoekstra	Moran (VA)
Conaway	Hyde	Ortiz				Conaway	Holden	Murphy
Conyers	Inglis (SC)	Osborne				Conyers	Holt	Murtha
Cooper	Inslee	Owens				Cooper	Honda	Musgrave
Costa	Israel	Oxley				Costa	Hooley	Myrick
Costello	Issa	Pallone				Costello	Hostettler	Nadler
Cox	Istook	Pascarell				Cox	Hoyer	Napolitano
Cramer	Jackson (IL)	Paul				Cramer	Hulshof	Neal (MA)
Crenshaw	Jackson-Lee	Payne				Crenshaw	Hunter	Neugebauer
Cubin	(TX)	Pearce				Cubin	Hyde	Ney
Cuellar	Jefferson	Pelosi				Cuellar	Inglis (SC)	Northup
Culberson	Jenkins	Pence				Culberson	Inslee	Norwood
Cummings	Jindal	Peterson (PA)				Cummings	Israel	Nunes
Cunningham	Johnson (CT)	Petri				Cunningham	Issa	Nussle
Davis (AL)	Johnson (IL)	Pickering				Davis (AL)	Istook	Oberstar
Davis (CA)	Johnson, E. B.	Pitts				Davis (CA)	Jackson (IL)	Obey
Davis (FL)	Johnson, Sam	Platts				Davis (FL)	Jackson-Lee	Olver
Davis (IL)	Jones (NC)	Poe				Davis (IL)	(TX)	Ortiz
Davis (KY)	Jones (OH)	Pombo				Davis (KY)	Jefferson	Osborne
Davis (TN)	Kaptur	Pomeroy				Davis (TN)	Jenkins	Otter
Davis, Jo Ann	Keller	Porter				Davis, Jo Ann	Jindal	Owens
Davis, Tom	Kelly	Portman				Davis, Tom	Johnson (CT)	Oxley
Deal (GA)	Kennedy (MN)	Price (GA)				Deal (GA)	Johnson (IL)	Pallone
DeFazio	Kildee	Price (NC)				DeFazio	Johnson, E. B.	Pascarell
DeGette	Kilpatrick (MI)	Pryce (OH)				DeGette	Johnson, Sam	Paul
Delahunt	Kind	Putnam				Delahunt	Jones (NC)	Payne
DeLauro	King (IA)	Radanovich				DeLauro	Jones (OH)	Pearce
DeLay	King (NY)	Rahall				DeLay	Kaptur	Pelosi
Dent	Kingston	Rangel				Dent	Keller	Pence
Diaz-Balart, L.	Kirk	Regula				Diaz-Balart, L.	Kelly	Peterson (MN)
Diaz-Balart, M.	Kline	Rehberg				Diaz-Balart, M.	Kennedy (MN)	Peterson (PA)
Dicks	Knollenberg	Reichert				Dicks	Kildee	Petri
Dingell	Kolbe	Renzi				Dingell	Kilpatrick (MI)	Pickering
Doggett	Kuhl (NY)	Reyes				Doggett	Kind	Pitts
Doolittle	LaHood	Reynolds				Doolittle	King (IA)	Platts
Doyle	Langevin	Rogers (AL)				Doyle	King (NY)	Poe
Drake	Lantos	Rogers (KY)				Drake	Kingston	Pombo
Dreier	Larson (CT)	Rogers (MI)				Dreier	Kirk	Pomeroy
Duncan	LaTourette	Rohrabacher				Duncan	Kline	Porter
Edwards	Levin	Ros-Lehtinen				Edwards	Knollenberg	Portman
Ehlers	Lewis (CA)	Ross				Ehlers	Kolbe	Price (GA)
Emanuel	Lewis (GA)	Rothman				Emanuel	Kucinich	Price (NC)
Emerson	Lewis (KY)	Roybal-Allard				Emerson	Kuhl (NY)	Pryce (OH)
Engel	Linder	Royce				Engel	LaHood	Putnam
Eshoo	Lipinski	Ruppersberger				English (PA)	Langevin	Radanovich
Etheridge	Loftgren, Zoe	Rush				Eshoo	Lantos	Rahall
Evans	Lowey	Ryan (OH)				Etheridge	Larsen (WA)	Rangel
Everett	Lucas	Ryan (WI)				Evans	Larson (CT)	Regula
Farr	Lungren, Daniel	Ryun (KS)				Everett	Latham	Rehberg
Fattah	E.	Salazar				Farr	LaTourette	Reichert
Feeney	Lynch	Sánchez, Linda				Fattah	Levin	Renzi
Ferguson	Mack	T.				Feeney	Lewis (CA)	Reyes
Fitzpatrick (PA)	Maloney	Sanchez, Loretta				Ferguson	Lewis (GA)	Reynolds
Flake	Manzullo	Sanders				Filner	Lewis (KY)	Rogers (AL)
Foley	Marchant	Saxton				Fitzpatrick (PA)	Linder	Rogers (KY)
Forbes	Markey	Schiff				Flake	Lipinski	Rogers (MI)
Ford	Marshall	Schwartz (PA)				Foley	LoBiondo	Rohrabacher
Fortenberry	Matheson	Schwarz (MI)				Forbes	Loftgren, Zoe	Ros-Lehtinen
Fox	McCaul (TX)	Scott (GA)				Ford	Lowey	Ross
Frank (MA)	McCollum (MN)	Scott (VA)				Fortenberry	Lucas	Rothman
Franks (AZ)	McCotter	Sensenbrenner				Fossella	Lungren, Daniel	Roybal-Allard
Frelinghuysen	McCrery	Serrano				Fox	E.	Royce
Gallely	McGovern	Sessions				Frank (MA)	Lynch	Ruppersberger
Garrett (NJ)	McHenry	Shadegg				Franks (AZ)	Mack	Rush
Gerlach	McHugh	Shaw				Frelinghuysen	Maloney	Ryan (OH)
Gibbons	McIntyre	Shays				Garrett (NJ)	Manzullo	Ryan (WI)
Gilchrest	McKeon	Sherman				Gerlach	Marchant	Ryun (KS)
Gillmor	McKinney	Sherwood				Gibbons	Markey	Sabo
Gingrey	McMorris	Shimkus				Gilchrest	Marshall	Salazar
Gohmert	McNulty	Shuster				Gillmor	Matheson	Sánchez, Linda
Gonzalez	Meehan	Simmons				Gingrey	McCaul (TX)	T.
Goode	Meek (FL)	Simpson				Gohmert	McCollum (MN)	Sanchez, Loretta
Goodlatte	Melancon	Skelton				Gonzalez	McCotter	Saxton
Gordon	Menendez	Slaughter				Goode	McCrery	Schakowsky
Granger	Mica	Smith (NJ)					McDermott	

NAYS—29

NOT VOTING—26

□ 1904

Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. WELLER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PROVIDING AMOUNTS FOR CONTINUING EXPENSES OF STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE FROM APRIL 1, 2005, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 133, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 133, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 0, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 54]

YEAS—406

Abercrombie	Beauprez	Bonilla
Ackerman	Becerra	Bonner
Aderholt	Berman	Bono
Akin	Berry	Boozman
Alexander	Biggart	Boren
Allen	Bilirakis	Boswell
Andrews	Bishop (GA)	Boustany
Baca	Bishop (NY)	Boyd
Bachus	Bishop (UT)	Bradley (NH)
Baker	Blackburn	Brady (TX)
Baldwin	Blumenauer	Brown (OH)
Barrett (SC)	Blunt	Brown (SC)
Bartlett (MD)	Boehert	Brown, Corrine
Barton (TX)	Boehner	

Schiff	Souder	Visclosky	Burgess	Graves	McNulty	Shadegg	Sweeney	Walsh
Schwartz (PA)	Spratt	Walden (OR)	Burton (IN)	Green (WI)	Meehan	Shaw	Tancredo	Wamp
Schwarz (MI)	Stearns	Walsh	Butterfield	Green, Al	Meek (FL)	Shays	Tanner	Waters
Scott (GA)	Strickland	Wamp	Buyer	Green, Gene	Melancon	Sherman	Tauscher	Watson
Scott (VA)	Sullivan	Waters	Calvert	Grijalva	Menendez	Sherwood	Taylor (MS)	Watt
Sensenbrenner	Sweeney	Watson	Camp	Gutknecht	Mica	Shimkus	Taylor (NC)	Waxman
Serrano	Tancredo	Watt	Cannon	Hall	Michaud	Shuster	Terry	Weldon (FL)
Sessions	Tanner	Waxman	Cantor	Harman	Millender-	Simmons	Thomas	Weldon (PA)
Shadegg	Tauscher	Weldon (FL)	Capito	Harris	McDonald	Skelton	Thompson (CA)	Weller
Shaw	Taylor (MS)	Weldon (PA)	Capps	Hart	Miller (FL)	Slaughter	Thompson (MS)	Westmoreland
Shays	Taylor (NC)	Weller	Capuano	Hastings (FL)	Miller (MI)	Smith (NJ)	Thornberry	Wexler
Sherman	Terry	Westmoreland	Cardin	Hastings (WA)	Miller (NC)	Smith (TX)	Tiahrt	Whitfield
Sherwood	Thomas	Wexler	Cardoza	Hayes	Miller, Gary	Smith (WA)	Tiberi	Wicker
Shimkus	Thompson (CA)	Whitfield	Charnahan	Hayworth	Miller, George	Snyder	Tierney	Wilson (NM)
Shuster	Thompson (MS)	Wicker	Choccola	Hefley	Mollohan	Sodrel	Turner	Wilson (SC)
Simmons	Thornberry	Wilson (NM)	Clyburn	Hensarling	Moore (KS)	Solis	Udall (CO)	Woolsey
Simpson	Tiahrt	Wilson (SC)	Coble	Herger	Moran (KS)	Souder	Udall (NM)	Wu
Skelton	Tiberi	Wolf	Chabot	Hinchey	Moran (VA)	Spratt	Upton	Young (AK)
Slaughter	Tierney	Woolsey	Chandler	Hinojosa	Murphy	Stearns	Van Hollen	Young (FL)
Smith (NJ)	Turner	Wynn	Choccola	Hobson	Murtha	Strickland	Velázquez	
Smith (TX)	Udall (CO)	Young (AK)	Clyburn	Hoekstra	Musgrave	Sullivan	Visclosky	
Smith (WA)	Udall (NM)	Young (FL)	Coble	Holden	Myrick			
Snyder	Upton		Cole (OK)	Holt	Nadler			
Sodrel	Van Hollen		Conaway	Honda	Napolitano			
Solis	Velázquez		Cooper	Hooley	Neal (MA)			

NOT VOTING—27

Baird	Crowley	Ramstad
Barrow	Herseth	Sanders
Bass	Higgins	Stark
Bean	Kanjorski	Stupak
Berkley	Kennedy (RI)	Towns
Boucher	Leach	Wasserman
Brady (PA)	Lee	Schultz
Carson	McCarthy	Weiner
Clay	Meeks (NY)	
Cleaver	Moore (WI)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1916

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF A YEAR OF LANGUAGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 122.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 122, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 396, nays 0, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 55]

YEAS—396

Abercrombie	Beauprez	Bonner
Ackerman	Becerra	Bono
Aderholt	Berman	Boozman
Akin	Berry	Boren
Alexander	Biggart	Boswell
Allen	Bilirakis	Boustany
Andrews	Bishop (GA)	Boyd
Baca	Bishop (NY)	Bradley (NH)
Bachus	Bishop (UT)	Brady (TX)
Baker	Blackburn	Brown (OH)
Baldwin	Blunt	Brown (SC)
Barrett (SC)	Boehlert	Brown, Corrine
Bartlett (MD)	Boehner	Brown-Waite,
Barton (TX)	Bonilla	Ginny

Butterfield	Buyer	Calvert	Camp	Cannon	Cantor	Capito	Capps	Capuano	Cardin	Cardoza	Charnahan	Carter	Case	Castle	Chabot	Chandler	Choccola	Clyburn	Coble	Cole (OK)	Conaway	Costa	Costello	Cox	Cramer	Crenshaw	Cubin	Cuellar	Culberson	Cummings	Cunningham	Davis (AL)	Davis (CA)	Davis (FL)	Davis (IL)	Davis (KY)	Davis (TN)	Davis, Jo Ann	Davis, Tom	Deal (GA)	DeFazio	DeGette	Delahunt	DeLauro	DeLay	Dent	Diaz-Balart, L.	Diaz-Balart, M.	Dicks	Dingell	Doggett	Doolittle	Doyle	Drake	Dreier	Duncan	Edwards	Ehlers	Emanuel	Emerson	Engel	English (PA)	Eshoo	Etheridge	Evans	Everett	Farr	Fattah	Feeney	Ferguson	Filner	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Flake	Foley	Forbes	Ford	Fortenberry	Fossella	Fox	Frank (MA)	Franks (AZ)	Frelinghuysen	Gallegly	Garrett (NJ)	Gerlach	Gibbons	Gilchrest	Gillmor	Gingrey	Gohmert	Gonzalez	Goode	Goodlatte	Gordon	Granger
-------------	-------	---------	------	--------	--------	--------	-------	---------	--------	---------	-----------	--------	------	--------	--------	----------	----------	---------	-------	-----------	---------	-------	----------	-----	--------	----------	-------	---------	-----------	----------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	---------------	------------	-----------	---------	---------	----------	---------	-------	------	-----------------	-----------------	-------	---------	---------	-----------	-------	-------	--------	--------	---------	--------	---------	---------	-------	--------------	-------	-----------	-------	---------	------	--------	--------	----------	--------	------------------	-------	-------	--------	------	-------------	----------	-----	------------	-------------	---------------	----------	--------------	---------	---------	-----------	---------	---------	---------	----------	-------	-----------	--------	---------

NOT VOTING—37

Baird	Gutierrez	Ramstad
Barrow	Herseth	Sanders
Bass	Higgins	Schakowsky
Bean	Hunter	Simpson
Berkley	Jackson-Lee	Stark
Blumenauer	(TX)	Stupak
Boucher	Johnson (CT)	Towns
Brady (PA)	Kanjorski	Walden (OR)
Carson	Leach	Wasserman
Clay	Lee	Schultz
Cleaver	McCarthy	Weiner
Conyers	Meeks (NY)	Wolf
Crowley	Moore (WI)	Wynn

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW) (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1933

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 139) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 139

Resolved, That the following Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House Representatives:

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Mr. Burton of Indiana to rank after Mr. Stearns.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SMART SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the United Nations High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change released a report to correspond with International Women's Day 2005, which is today, March 8, 2005.

Since March is also Women's History Month, it is important to discuss the proven link between gender equality and global security and development. There is an important link here, but it is one that we seldom discuss.

The UN's comprehensive report addresses the inter-connectedness of gender equality and the threats that most affect our world: International security, extreme poverty, environmental degradation and diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

Because women constitute a greater proportion than men of the world's poorest people, women stand to gain the most from the alleviation of extreme poverty. And because women around the world experience higher illiteracy rates than men, they also stand to gain more from education programs, particularly in the world's poorest countries where opportunities to receive quality instruction are extremely scarce.

The link between poverty and illiteracy and global insecurity is clear. The bipartisan 9/11 Commission that addressed the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 acknowledged that poverty, illiteracy and despair do not cause terrorism, but they do breed conditions in which terrorism is created.

That is why any attempt to address international security must include a discussion about high poverty and illiteracy rates. And because women are burdened disproportionately by poverty and illiteracy, any attempt to ad-

dress those plights must begin by addressing the excessive degree to which women are affected.

Even in America, women who work full-time year-round earn only 76 cents for every \$1 that their male counterparts earn. And every day, in nearly every country in the world, women are beaten, raped and killed. This crisis of violence against women has reached the most dire magnitude in countries like Sudan and Congo and Angola, where rape and brutality towards women is used as a political tool and an act of war.

The international trafficking of women and girls is also a huge problem. Trafficking, the process by which women are sold into sexual slavery, is particularly rampant in Africa and in Southeast Asia.

For those who do not believe there to be an issue of concern for the United States, think again. The trafficking of women reinforces the vicious cycle that continually prevents women from earning a decent living wage, keeping them in slavery and keeping them from receiving the same quality of education as men. This in turn reinforces the root cause of global instability that often gives rise to terrorism.

Fortunately, there is a way to address this crisis. It is called SMART security for the 21st century. SMART is a Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. SMART security addresses the security of women by urging educational opportunities for women and girls. Studies have proven that the more girls that are enrolled in schools in developing countries, the more the population of that country stabilizes. And the more stable the country, the more violence decreases. In fact, domestic violence lessens and crime levels decrease in line with educational opportunities.

We must prevent future acts of the terrorism, and SMART security is a way to do it. Instead of trying to spread democracy through the barrel of a gun, like we have been in Iraq, let us spread it through books, by increasing educational opportunities for women and girls. Today, International Women's Day, let us make it a priority to ensure that women in the poorest countries receive the educational opportunities they need and deserve.

Just as important, women need to be encouraged and allowed to participate in the political process in every country if we are to see a more secure world. And above all else, we must remember that if international security efforts fail to include women, then they are excluding more than half of the world's population. Let us include all of the world's population and let us secure our world for the 21st century.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOHMERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL MANUFACTURING WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we all support American manufacturers; every Member of Congress should. But feel-good resolutions such as the one we are voting on this week will do little to cure our manufacturing ills.

We are running record trade deficits each year. When I first ran for Congress in 1992, the U.S. trade deficit, as you can see on this chart, was \$38 billion. The trade deficit last year, after 12 years of misplaced trade policy, 12 years of misplaced tax policy and 4 years of a Bush administration that has totally ignored manufacturing, we now see a trade deficit of \$617 billion. From \$38 billion to \$617 billion in a space of only 13 years.

The U.S. has become the world's largest debtor nation, over \$2.5 trillion in 2002. The dollar continues to lose value in world markets.

Last year, we had the opportunity to pass Crane/Rangel, a bipartisan bill to help the American manufacturing industry by encouraging them to produce goods in the United States. But instead, we passed an alternative that, as usual, gave handouts to multinational corporations and did little to nothing for our family-owned manufacturing facilities.

My State of Ohio has lost more than 170,000 manufacturing jobs since 2001, and the remaining small manufacturing businesses are struggling to keep the doors open. The manufacturing extension program, MEP, is an important resource that helps small manufacturers in Ohio and across the country to help improve efficiency, increase competitiveness and stay in business. Despite this success, the President is asking in his budget to eviscerate MEP.

In 2003, when MEP was funded at \$111 million, Ohio, although only receiving

a small fraction of that funding, that modest investment produced impressive results. MEP helped more than 2,700 Ohio businesses to create or retain more than 1,100 jobs, increase sales by \$20 million, cut costs by \$47 million, increase investments by \$58 million. That is exactly the sort of helping hand Ohio and the Nation's small manufacturers need.

Then the President proposed an MEP funding cut of 88 percent, ended up signing a law a couple of years ago that cut it almost that much. Not surprisingly, services to Ohio businesses dropped significantly. This year, the President's budget request asked for a funding cut of another 50 percent. Less than \$1 million per State will be left for MEP. We should be supporting a funding level five times that amount because it would mean more tax revenue, more jobs, more success for U.S. manufacturers.

Ohio's Republican governors urge the President to change his position on MEP. Working men and women from my State and across the Nation understand that our economic future is at stake. We should pass a bill this week ensuring increased MEP funds over the President's request, but this body probably will not do it.

To support our Nation's manufacturing, we should pass a bill to stop China from manipulating its currency by artificially pegging it below the dollar. China starts out with a 40 percent advantage over American manufacturers by this illegal act, not to mention having no minimum wage and forced labor camps and child labor and all the other advantages, artificial advantages if you will, in a free marketplace that China has. But I do not think that legislation to deal with currency manipulating will be on the House floor this week.

To support our Nation's manufacturers, we should pass such a bill making sure China plays fair and meets its World Trade Organization obligations, but I do not see a bill on the floor this week to do that.

To support our Nation's manufacturing, we should pass the bill of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Foreign Debt Ceiling Act of 2005, that would create an emergency trade review group at the U.S. Trade Representative's Office to develop a plan of action if the trade deficit is above 5 percent of U.S. GDP or if foreign debt climbs above 25 percent of GDP. But that is not being considered this week either.

The manufacturing industry is the backbone of our country. This industry, these workers, these communities built America. And when these industries suffer, our communities suffer, our families suffer, our schools suffer, our Nation is hurt. Yet many in Congress continue to support measures that move these jobs overseas. Let us be clear about whom we should support.

Congratulate manufacturers, is what the resolution on the floor will do and

nothing else this week, who have remained in the U.S. and refrained from sending manufacturing jobs overseas. But it is not just about keeping our middle class strong; we should be concerned about national security. Without a strong manufacturing base, there can be no strong reliable national security in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we, finally, in this Congress adopt a manufacturing policy.

□ 1945

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOHMERT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, the American people are hearing a lot of information about our Social Security system, and I am sure they have got legitimate questions: Is there a crisis or not? If there is a crisis, then is there a trust fund or not? If there is not a trust fund, where did it go, who took it and when?

There are, of course, those who say that there is no crisis, that we have a system that is awash in cash and can fund all future benefits but it needs minor tweaking to ensure solvency.

Perhaps crisis is the wrong word. Captive may be a better selection because certainly we are held captive by our demographics. If our current system is to work and work well, we need large numbers of young people to pay into the system, and we need retirees to live relatively short intervals after their retirement; but in fact, neither of these situations reflects reality.

Birth rates are down in this country, although not to the degree as seen in some Western European countries, still resulting in a smaller pool of younger workers to support retirees. Life expectancy is up, largely because of the unbelievable advances in medical care that have occurred in the last 70 years since 1935. Both situations are arguably good news, but they do portend a serious situation for our Social Security system.

For example, in the country of Japan there are now four retirees to be supported by every new job that is created. It becomes extremely difficult to remain competitive in such an environment. Raising taxes to deal with the Social Security shortfall arguably has been done several times in the past 70 years; but, unfortunately, that makes the problem even worse. The old axiom states that you tax what you do not

want, but surely we want jobs for tomorrow's Americans, but increasing the payroll tax may mean ultimately there are fewer such jobs.

In 1937, the Supreme Court ruled that excess Social Security funds were to be placed in the general revenue fund. Mr. Speaker, that is what happened to the trust fund. In fact, nonnegotiable government instruments housed in a metal filing cabinet in West Virginia represent the surplus in Social Security, and that surplus has been spent over the last several decades by Congress. Congress spent the money, Congress wrote out an IOU for the money, and we continue to write IOUs for the interest.

Mr. Speaker, where is the fairness in a system that holds captive 12 percent of the country's payroll and pays no interest on the money? This, I think, is the heart of the problem. What Albert Einstein described as the miracle of compound interest is denied to American workers.

What are the solutions that might be there for us to help with Social Security? We could cut benefits. I did not come to Congress to do that. We could raise taxes. Not this guy.

There are, of course, those who feel that growth in the economy will help those two workers that are going to have to support every retiree into the future; and I will tell my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I will bet on the American economy every time, but I am not sure if we can improve productivity to that degree.

Mr. Speaker, what we can do is take those excess funds being paid into Social Security and place them into individual accounts that would not be accessible to government spenders and not be accessible to congressional appropriators. Allow these accounts to earn interest by following a conservative investment strategy, and now perhaps we begin to see the opportunity to preserve Social Security and ensure its solvency well into the future.

The question is always asked how to pay for this transition. I have already excluded a tax increase or benefit cut as a viable mechanism. The money to finance the transition would have to be borrowed; and in fact, this does not represent new debt because the obligation has already been incurred. The borrowing is only to refinance an obligation that already exists, a situation analogous to refinancing a mortgage.

Mr. Speaker, we should always be for good government. The principle of good government would suggest that the current obligation is present, but we are not acknowledging its presence. By financing the transition, we can convert an unknown obligation into bonded indebtedness. It becomes a marketable instrument; and that, in fact, would be a commitment to good government.

Financial markets are not known for their courage. They do not like uncertainty; and, clearly, the uncertainty of

monetizing the Social Security debt in the future is one that they will deal with fairly severely. But by making that a known obligation, we are giving the markets more comfort into what our intentions are with regard to the unfunded Social Security liability.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with a quotation that was delivered in this House some years ago: "Voluntary contributory annuities by which individual initiative can increase the annual amounts received in old age. It is proposed that the Federal Government assume one-half of the cost of the old-age pension plan, which ought ultimately to be supplanted by self-supporting annuity plans."

These words were spoken in this Chamber 70 years ago by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the father of Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, it is our obligation to deal with this problem this year. I applaud the President for pushing it on the national agenda, and I look forward to the debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

THE DREAM LIVES ON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, 40 years ago yesterday on March 7, 1965, events in Selma, Alabama, became a seminal moment for the advancement of civil rights in our country. Last weekend, I had the privilege to join one of my heroes, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), who was also one of the leaders of the nonviolent civil rights movement, to retrace his steps across the Edmund Pettus Bridge where America's long march to freedom met a roadblock of violent resistance. The day became known as Bloody Sunday.

By 1965, the cause of equality and human dignity had already seen much progress and setbacks: the Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*, Rosa Parks's defiance on a bus in Montgomery, the breaking of a color barrier at Ole Miss, the historic March on Washington, the assassinations of Medgar Evers and President Kennedy, the bombing deaths of four little girls at the 16th Street Baptist

Church in Birmingham, Alabama, the Mississippi freedom summer, the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

But on this Bloody Sunday, about 600 people, young and old, put their lives on the line and met the unbridled force of racism for the most basic American right, the right to vote and be full participants in our democracy. The Alabama State Patrol was waiting for them at the other side of the Pettus Bridge and attacked them with clubs, tear gas, and dogs.

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) was beaten so badly he believed he was going to die. The images were captured on TV. When the movie "Judgment at Nuremberg" was interrupted with the news, many people watching the movie first thought that it was a continuation of the movie depicting brutal Nazi oppression, until they realized that this was happening in America, right now. People's shock moved the political world.

One week after Bloody Sunday, President Johnson spoke to the Nation. In inspiring words, he said: "At times, history and fate meet in a single time and a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom. So it was at Lexington and Concord. So it was a century ago at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma. Their cause must be our cause."

Two weeks after Bloody Sunday, Dr. Martin Luther King and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) led 4,000 people across the Pettus Bridge on their 54-mile march to Montgomery. Six months later, President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, proclaiming that the right to vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison all people merely because they are different from each other.

Soon the Voting Rights Act will be up again before Congress for reauthorization. We should do it sooner rather than later. We should make it permanent, rather than for short periods, so we do not have to revisit the issue and debate its provisions. Surely there is enough common interest and bipartisan support to accomplish this.

Their cause 40 years ago this week still must be our cause to overcome today. For as long as the power of America's diversity is diminished by acts of discrimination and violence against people just because they are black, Hispanic, Asian, Jewish, Muslim or gay, we still must overcome.

As long as the gap between rich and poor continues to spread in our Nation, with some and not all having access to health care, we still must overcome.

As long as children of color are more likely to live in poverty, die sooner, and less likely to graduate high school and go on to college, we still must overcome.

As President Bush stated during his recent trip to Europe: "We cannot carry the message of freedom and the baggage of bigotry at the same time.

All our nations must work to integrate minorities into the mainstream of society, and to teach the value of tolerance to each new generation."

President Clinton pointed out 5 years ago at the Pettus Bridge that these challenges already have existing bridges waiting to be crossed. He said: "These bridges stand on the strong foundations of our Constitution. They were built by our forebears through silent tears and weary years. They are waiting to take us to higher ground."

But there is still much work to be done. In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Human progress never rolls on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts of people willing to be co-workers with God."

We remember the event of 40 years ago this week not only to honor the courage, sacrifice and accomplishments by those like the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and so many more, but also to rededicate ourselves to their unfinished work: the pursuit of justice, love, tolerance and human rights, in our country and throughout the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELDON of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, today is International Women's Day, a day we honor women and their contributions to the American way of life. American women, from the frontier era to the

space age, have steadily blazed the trails and stayed the course to bring recognition of the accomplishments of women not only in the United States but across the world and across the seas.

Each of us can identify at least one woman who forever marked our life in a positive way. My grandmother lived to her late nineties and was always the most influential person in my life. In the 1950s, after my grandfather was killed by a drunk driver, she went to work as a clerk in the ladies' ready-to-wear section of a department store; and while she would have continued to work there, they forced her to quit at the age of 75.

She taught me the values of public service, and this is why I have dedicated my life to public service. She was the most influential woman in my life. All of us have people like that, women who have influenced us in a positive way. Those American women, they are a rare breed.

In other countries, like Iraq, where I recently traveled on a fact-finding mission, women recount the decades of torture and execution and oppression they experienced under the tyrant and dictator Saddam Hussein. For most women it has only been since our toppling of that vicious and murderous tyrant that they have been allowed to pursue opportunities that we take for granted, like employment. On the historic election day, which I was privileged to observe this year, for many Iraqi women this was their first chance to ever vote.

Yet as encouraging as these illustrations are, millions of women are victims to a destructive force known as domestic violence. In fact, in the United States alone, according to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, nearly one-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a boyfriend or a husband at some point in their life. Moreover, the Department of Justice's statistics show that in 2003 alone 9 percent of all murder victims were killed by their spouse or their partners. Eighty percent of those victims were females.

□ 2000

Mr. Speaker, this is a serious problem, not just for our Nation's women but also for our Nation's families. It is a serious problem for children, children that live in those homes with all of that serious, serious turmoil.

Domestic abuse scars children through the images of violence and fighting; the ramifications if they try to intervene; the emotional anguish they suffer for years. Domestic abuse in some cases results in withdrawal or unhealthy perfectionism, and in other cases they act it out.

The American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family concluded in 1996 that a child's exposure to the father abusing the mother is the strongest risk factor for transmitting violent be-

havior from one generation to the next. In addition, the American Medical Association has calculated that family violence costs taxpayers in the range of \$5 billion to \$10 billion a year in medical expenses.

It is not only a family problem and a criminal problem; it is a health issue. Domestic violence costs us in police and court costs, shelters, foster care, sick leave, and nonproductivity.

As a former judge and founder of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, this epidemic is of great alarm to me. I believe we must work to eliminate this domestic abuse while protecting the victims that have already resulted from this trend.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all of us on this day, as we recognize the worth of women, are determined to make sure that they live in a safe environment in their homes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOHMERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN HONOR OF TILLIE FOWLER, FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday we announced on the floor of this House that our former colleague, Tillie Fowler, had passed away that day. She suffered a stroke on Monday and went to the hospital and never recovered from that. It was a sad day for all of us, and there were so many Members that served with Tillie that wanted to honor her life and her achievements that we asked for this time tonight to celebrate her life, to celebrate the contributions that she made not only to her community, not only to the State of Florida, but to the Nation as a whole; and so that is why we are here tonight.

Tillie Fowler was one of those unique individuals that could balance so many things in her life. I never had the chance to actually serve with Tillie because we were from the same hometown and while she served on the city council at the local level, I was serving

in the State government; and when she left the Congress in 2000, I ran to take her seat. But I knew her as a friend for 35 years, and I watched her involve herself in the community, and I watched her get involved in local politics; I watched her become a United States House of Representative representative from the Fourth Congressional District. Through all of that, I saw the way that she loved her children, the way that she loved her husband, Buck, and the way that she loved her community.

I can remember so many times, as we would come back, because she was in Washington working with a large law firm, that we would ride a plane here and ride a plane back to Jacksonville and her husband, Buck, was always there at the airport to greet her and give her a big hug. So I just think there are so many people here that cared so much about her, because not only was she tough in what she tried to do but, more than anything, she just liked people. She cared about people, whether they were important people or just people she would see on the street. She had a way of making everybody feel at ease.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by her death, but I am proud of the legacy that she leaves behind her; and I know that Members here tonight share in that.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in celebrating the life and accomplishments of former Congresswoman Tillie Kidd Fowler. Ms. Fowler passed away suddenly last week but leaves a proud legacy of achievement and integrity.

Tillie Fowler was born in 1942 and grew up in Milledgeville, Georgia. Her father, state Senator Culver Kidd, was a legendary Democratic political figure in the Georgia Legislature for over 40 years and her mother, Katherine, was active in the community. She received both her bachelor's degree and law degree from Emory University.

After law school, she moved to Washington, DC and worked as a congressional staffer for Representative Robert Stephens (D-GA) and later as Counsel in the White House Office of Consumer Affairs under President Richard Nixon. In 1968, she married attorney L. Buck Fowler and in 1971 moved to Jacksonville, Florida. Shortly thereafter, she put her professional career on hold to raise her daughters, Tillie Anne and Elizabeth. During this time she served as the President of the Junior League of Jacksonville (1982-83), chaired the Florida Humanities Council (1989-91) and was active in a number of other charitable organizations, including the American Red Cross and Volunteer Jacksonville.

She returned to political public service when she was elected to the Jacksonville City Council in 1985. She became that body's first Republican and first woman President.

Tillie Fowler was elected to Congress in 1992, winning a seat that had been held by a Democrat for 42 years. She secured an appointment to the House Armed Services committee, the only Republican woman on that committee at the time. Her subcommittee assignments included Readiness, Personnel and Military Construction. In 1997, she was appointed by the Speaker of the House to a task

force created to investigate allegations of sexual harassment and abuse at U.S. military training bases.

She also served on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, and in the 106th Congress she was named Chairman of the newly created Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations and Emergency Management.

In 1998, she was chosen by her Republican colleagues to be the Vice Chairman of the Republican Conference, making her the highest-ranking woman in the U.S. Congress when she retired. She also served for six years as a Deputy Majority Whip.

A year and a half before the terrible events of September 11, 2001, she drafted the Preparedness Against Terrorism Act of 2000 (H.R. 4210). Her bill would have centralized the Federal government's anti-terrorism efforts by creating the President's Council on Domestic Terrorism Preparedness within the White House. Many of her proposed reforms were enacted in the legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security.

Her reputation as a knowledgeable and articulate U.S. Representative resulted in her appointment to several boards outside of her committee responsibilities: U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors; Stennis Center for Public Service Board of Trustees, Vice Chairman; Defense Department's Centers for Security Studies Board of Visitors; and the House Page Board, Chairman.

Upon her departure from Congress, Representative Fowler's extraordinary efforts to ensure a strong United States military were recognized by the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of Defense. She received the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award and the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service. These are the highest civilian awards given by the Navy and the Department of Defense.

Shortly after leaving Congress, she was appointed by the Speaker of the House to the Commission on the Future of the Aerospace Industry which was created by Congress to assess the aerospace industry in the global economy, particularly in relationship to the national security of the United States. The Center for Strategic & International Studies also named her to its Distinguished Congressional Fellows panel.

She was appointed to the Defense Policy Board Advisory Committee by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in 2001. In May of 2003, the Secretary named her as Chairman of the prestigious board which advises the Secretary of Defense on issues central to strategic planning for the department. She is the first woman to serve as Chairman of the Defense Policy Board in its 20-year history. She also serves on the Chief of Naval Operations' Executive Panel whose purpose is to advise the CNO on questions related to national seapower.

In the spring of 2003, she was appointed by the Secretary of Defense to lead the seven-member panel created by Congress to review sexual misconduct allegations at the U.S. Air Force Academy. The panel conducted a 90-day study of the policies, management, organizational practices and cultural elements of the Academy that may have been conducive to alleged sexual misconduct. The panel's final report was delivered to the Secretary of Defense and the Congress on September 22, 2003.

When allegations of prisoner abuse by U.S. military personnel at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq surfaced in May 2004, the Secretary of Defense again turned to Representative Fowler. The Secretary appointed her along with two former Secretaries of Defense and a retired four-star general, to a blue-ribbon panel charged with providing the Secretary with independent, professional advice on issues related to the allegations of prisoner mistreatment.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, this House was a better place for Tillie Fowler's service. She was a remarkable woman with a rare combination of passionate drive and dedication for what she believed and a caring spirit for the people around her. She made people feel at ease and she always did anything she could to help others. During lifetime of service she exhibited a striking presence of personality, integrity and intellect that will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to our conference chairman, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE).

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding to me and for hosting this Special Order honoring Tillie's life and her legacy. It is a wonderful tribute that Tillie deserved. The outpouring of emotion and praise here tonight, in Jacksonville, and all over the Nation proves how special a person Tillie Fowler was.

Universally respected and trusted, Tillie was a model public servant. She was also a model parent, a model spouse, and most importantly to me, a model friend. Lucky enough to have found her calling at an early age, Tillie became an aide to Congressman Robert Stephens from Georgia shortly after earning her law degree from Emory University. Her talents were quickly recognized, and she soon found herself in the Office of Consumer Affairs in the Nixon White House. There she met her good lifelong friend, now Senator ELIZABETH DOLE.

Following her public service early in life, Tillie and her husband moved to Florida and began their family. They raised two lovely daughters, Tillie Anne and Elizabeth. While in Florida, Tillie mastered one of the most important skills for a woman in politics: balancing her family and her desire to serve. Tillie always put her family first and, at the same time, found the energy to serve her community, first in the Jacksonville City Council and then as its chair.

In 1993, Tillie came to Washington as a Member of Congress, the same year I did; and we became fast friends. As my classmate, she was more than a colleague. Together we entered what was then, and still now to some extent, a man's world. We relied on each other for strength and for guidance, and shared the experience of being freshmen women together, two of only three in our Republican class that year.

From those first days in Congress, I recognized Tillie as a savvy politician but also as a selfless soul. She followed her convictions with tenacity and with courage. More than just a Member of

Congress, Tillie Fowler was a patriotic legislator who let her conscience guide her through the most treacherous halls of Congress oftentimes. She earned respect from her colleagues, both men and women, Democrat and Republican; and she had no enemies that I ever knew of.

As Vice Chair of the House Republican Conference, Tillie set the standard for women in our leadership. She worked tirelessly on issues that affected the entire Nation. She was an active proponent of a strong military, and even went on to advise the Defense Department. She knew her stuff and she was never shy about speaking her mind, confident that her insight was valuable, and it was.

Tillie had the ability to disagree with you with a smile on her face all the while. She showed America that women legislators need not be relegated solely to women's issues; that we care about the same issues that men do, but with just a little different perspective. And today, International Women's Day, it is truly appropriate that we honor and celebrate the life of one of our Nation's finest.

Tillie was a friend to me, a great friend in times of sadness and in times of joy. I will miss her friendship and her guidance and know that there are countless others among us to whom she meant so much. Our prayers continue to be with Tillie's family, her two wonderful daughters and her husband, Buck; but her loved ones should know that Tillie left them, our country, and all who had the very, very good fortune to know her a wonderful and lasting legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the distinguished majority leader of the House.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for taking this Special Order in memory of Tillie Fowler.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember a warrior, Tillie Kidd Fowler, wife, mother, friend and patriot, died 6 days ago and left behind her a legacy of service all will admire but few will match.

She was as good a friend as she was a politician and was superb in both roles because no matter what hat she was wearing, it was still the same Tillie underneath. When word reached Washington last week that Tillie had left us, we all remembered the same things: we remembered her courage, her tenacity, and we remembered her leadership.

There was no national security issue about which she was not an expert. There was not a branch of our military that did not seek her guidance and help in promoting the policies that keep our Nation safe. And there was not a serviceman or -woman in uniform who did not have a loyal and caring friend in the gentlewoman from Jacksonville.

Her retirement from Congress, as anyone who knew Tillie could have

guessed, did not in any way signal her retirement from public service. In the years after she left us, she helped lead public investigations into sexual misconduct at the Air Force Academy and prison abuse in Iraq. The wrongdoers in those cases up and down the chains of command, like her political opponents over the years, learned the hard way why Representative Fowler earned the nickname "Steel Magnolia."

She had also served since 2001 on the Pentagon's Defense Policy Board, advising Secretary Rumsfeld on strategy and policy during the tumultuous last 4 years.

Whatever the situation, Tillie Fowler's motivation was service: service to her family, to her community, to her country. For that reason, far more than for her many career and legislative achievements, last week this country lost a hero.

Decades from now, Mr. Speaker, when we too have left this building and, indeed, this world; when the controversies of our age are largely forgotten, the service and integrity that defined Tillie Fowler's life will still be remembered. She was a woman, good and true, who said things worth saying, did things worth doing, and served causes worth serving.

When you think about it, what more can you say about anyone? Tillie Fowler was always admired, Mr. Speaker, and now she will be missed.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) for arranging this Special Order.

As all of my colleagues probably know, as we remember Tillie it is always easy to remember the great, wonderful stories of an incredible life. When she left Congress, I knew how proud she was of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) replacing her, if you can replace anyone in this world. She knew the important things for her community, for her Nation were to be able to lead in a strong collective voice on national security. In that effort, she was the most incredible of spokespersons.

She was an incredibly strong voice for Jacksonville, a stronger voice for women, a role model for any person striving to serve in public life, and an incredible friend to all who knew her. There was not a day that went by that she did not mention Buck or her children, Elizabeth or Tillie, Jr. Whether it was just a casual comment; that she was heading back to see them at home this weekend; that they had just bought a condo at the beach; that they were getting ready to embark on another adventure; or that Tillie, Jr. had got a job, it was always about her family that she shared the joys of her life in service here.

I know Buck, Elizabeth, and Tillie, Jr. that your hearts ache, but they certainly do not ache alone. I will always

remember her generosity of spirit and the time she took for a new Member of this Congress. Her first question whenever she saw you, in that gorgeous Southern accent, was "How are you, dear?" "How is your day?" "How can I help?"

She had a little ceremonial leather chair that was a beautiful antique. And when she was leaving Congress, she rolled it down to my office and said, "You always admired this chair. I want you to have it." I hope the office of the Capitol architect does not come looking for it, but I do have Tillie's chair.

When I ran for the Senate, I remember her coming from across town, sitting in my office and asking me if I really wanted to do this and if I knew what I was getting into. I told her I thought I did. And she said, well, if you are ready for the challenge, I am ready to saddle up and ride alongside you. And she never, never wavered in her support.

When I would go to Jacksonville and meet new friends, they would first ask me, what does Tillie think; what does Tillie think of your chances; does Tillie support you; and if Tillie supports you, that is good enough for me.

□ 2015

This business of politics, it is incredible when that universal voice of a community would always first ask, regardless of party, what does Tillie think?

As we honor her memory and pray for her soul, we thank God that he gave us a chance to get to know her. And those that did not, you missed an incredibly vivacious, talented and smart woman. We honor her commitment to this Nation and the legacy she leaves behind. And we pray for Buck and her kids, as they struggle through these dark days and as they reflect on her life, they know, yes, she was larger than life, but she was simply and modestly just Tillie. That is how she would want to be remembered, and we remember her in that way, a hero among us, a great patriot, a loving mother and wife, a superb human being. We pray for her soul.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW).

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to express in words the feeling that we have outpouring here this evening for Tillie and our remembrance of her. She was always strong but gentle, brilliant yet reasonable. She had all of the types of things that we really need to look for in our leaders.

Emily, my wife, and I had a very unique relationship with Tillie. When married Members come to Congress, they are assigned by the congressional spouses what we call a little brother or little sister. And Emily loved to remind Buck that he was her little brother. We had a friendship that went beyond being just colleagues; it went out-

side of this Chamber, outside of this Capitol. The friendship that evolved is one that I will always remember.

We had a service down in Jacksonville just a few days ago. Two plane loads came down to be at that service from both the Pentagon as well as from this great body here. The outpouring that we saw in that community was really beautiful. The military was there. Both sides of the church were flanked by soldiers from all of the services, and the service ended up with a flyover, which I am sure Tillie would have loved. I remember the preacher in that small church. The church was absolutely full. People were standing in the front yard of the church just to hear the service and be near those so close to Tillie. The preacher talked about one of the greatest gifts man has is your memory. Tillie will always live in our memory. We love her, and we really just absolutely will never forget how wonderful she was and what a great influence she was and how she left her mark permanently on this body, her community and her country.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I represent the western part of Jacksonville and flew down for the funeral for Tillie Fowler and was quite moved. We lost a great leader. For Florida, she was a strong advocate, and we will miss Tillie quite a bit.

For 8 years, I had the privilege and honor of working with her in Congress on behalf of the people of Jacksonville. I feel a great deal of sympathy and extend prayers for her husband, Buck, and her two daughters, Tillie Ann and Elizabeth. Tillie and I worked on the Cecil Field Navy Master Jet Base when it showed up on the base closure. Many a night we were working together shoulder to shoulder trying to figure out how we could prevent the Navy from closing this important Navy jet base. Unfortunately, we did not succeed, but I learned a lot from her.

She combined humility with ambition. She had dedication, but she had grace. She was a woman of many talents. What the remarkable thing about Tillie was, you would talk to her and say, Tillie, I do not want to do that. She could get other people to do what they did not want to do, and in the end, they liked doing it somehow because of her leadership. It is a remarkable trait. She had a profound impact on all of the people she worked with, and she touched all of us.

Jacksonville used to be a small town. It is a much larger town, and that is largely attributable, I think, to Tillie Fowler's activities. It has 1 million people. The city is recognized as a growing urban center. It hosted the Super Bowl recently, a feat very few cities have had the opportunity to claim. Jacksonville maintains a strong commitment to armed services, and has two major Naval facilities there.

The successful transformation of Jacksonville over the past two decades owes much to Tillie Fowler. She worked on behalf of the area as a volunteer and as an elected official at the local and Federal level. This dedication to public service is really a family trait.

While making a run for Congress in 1992, she offered to limit herself to four terms. All of us went up to her after she was in the midst of trying to decide to tell her, I think your constituents would be very happy if you continue serving, but she was quite principled, and she said she was going to leave Congress and honor her four terms. In fact, I believe the leadership asked her to stay. She accomplished many of the goals she set out to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, we have lost more than an experienced lawmaker, public servant; we lost a good friend. She was a good friend to the people of Florida and to all of the men and women of our armed services. God bless Tillie Fowler.

Mr. Speaker, last week our nation lost a great leader and Florida lost a strong advocate with the death of Tillie Fowler. For eight years, I had the privilege and honor of working with her in Congress on behalf of the people of Jacksonville. I miss my former colleague and my friend, and my prayers are with her husband Buck and their two daughters, Tillie Ann and Elizabeth.

We worked together on the Brae commission when they had Cecil Field Navy master jet base on the closure list. We worked many nights together.

She combined humility with ambition, and dedication with grace. As a woman of many talents, she could get other people to do what they didn't want to do and to like it. She had a profound impact on all of the lives she touched throughout her life.

Not so long ago, Jacksonville was looked upon as a small city supporting paper mills, a commercial port, and military bases. Today, the Jacksonville area numbers one million people and the city is recognized as a vibrant, growing urban center. Most recently it hosted the Super Bowl, a feat only a few cities can claim. Although it has shed some of its past, Jacksonville maintains its strong commitment to our armed services as the host to major military facilities.

The successful transformation of Jacksonville over the past two decades owes much to Tillie Fowler. She worked on behalf of the area as a volunteer, and as an elected official at the local and federal levels. This dedication to public service is a family trait.

Tillie's father, Culver Kidd, served for 42 years in the Georgia legislature, and her mother, Katherine Kidd, was a community leader. Tillie learned about civic and local involvement in Milledgeville, Georgia. I should point out that Milledgeville has contributed a great deal to this nation. It was also the home of the distinguished writer Flannery O'Connor and the long-time Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Carl Vinson.

From her small hometown, Tillie pursued her education at Emory University in Atlanta earning a B.A. in political science and later a J.D. Armed with her law degree, Tillie came here to Washington, D.C., and worked on the staff of Congressman Robert Stephens of

Georgia. Her strong talents were soon recognized and she was brought to the White House as a counsel in the Nixon Administration.

During this period, Tillie not only expanded her professional horizons, she met and married a fellow attorney, L. Buck Fowler. In 1971, she moved with her husband to Jacksonville, Florida, where she set about the important job of raising a family. Although she put her career on hold, Tillie did not ease up on public service. She volunteered her efforts as the President of the Junior League of Jacksonville, with the American Red Cross, and other charitable groups.

In 1985, she returned to the political scene with her election to the City Council and served on the council from 1985 through 1992. In 1989, she became President of the Jacksonville City Council, the first Republican and the first woman to hold that position. Although she retired from the council in 1992, her political career was just changing direction; she then successfully ran for Congress.

Congresswoman Fowler returned to Washington with an ambitious agenda. She vowed to make Mayport Naval Station a top priority, and she succeeded. Through her position on the Armed Services Committee, she built a reputation as an advocate of a strong national defense. She improved the nation's commitment to military personnel and facilities in her district, throughout the nation, and around the world. Although a woman with a petite figure, she cast a giant shadow in support of our armed services: generals and admirals always knew her by her first name.

While making her first run for Congress in 1992, Mrs. Fowler offered to limit herself to four terms. Although she was asked by her leadership and her colleagues to reconsider, Tillie is stepping down after four terms. After all, she had accomplished the goals she set out to achieve.

We have lost more than an experienced lawmaker and public servant; we have lost a good friend. In fact, Mrs. Fowler was a good friend to the people of Florida, and perhaps more importantly, to the men and women of our armed services.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) who also represents part of Jacksonville.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my favorite hymn is "Let the Work I Have Done Speak For Me." I think that more than anything explains our friend and former colleague, Tillie Fowler. My prayers and deepest regret goes out to her immediate family, Buck and their two girls, Tillie Ann and Elizabeth.

Tillie and I shared a lot. We were in the great class of 1992. We said that was the class, the year of the woman. One distinguished objective to describe Tillie was she was a tremendous fighter. She struggled for what she believed in and for the betterment of the people in the region she served. Above all, Tillie loved her country, and she fought hard to protect it. She distinguished herself in the area of military and, in particular, fighting for women's rights in the military.

I also served with Tillie on the Committee on Transportation and the In-

frastructure, and we crossed party lines numerous times to work together to do what was best for the city of Jacksonville and North Florida. I almost said Georgia because I know that my colleague is here, and he is going to speak from Georgia, but her roots came from Georgia. She came from a political family. One could tell she was a lady, a southern lady.

We all must pass this way, but, hopefully, when we do, we can look back on all of the things that Tillie Fowler has done, not just for the community but for the entire country, to make this place a better place because Tillie Fowler has passed here. When you are born, you get a birth certificate. And when you die, you get a death certificate. And the only thing that really matters is that dash on your tombstone in between. Tillie, let the work she has done speak for her because she has done a great job for our community.

I was deeply saddened to hear of the sudden passing of my former colleague, Tillie Fowler. My prayers and deepest regrets go out to her and her immediate family, Buck, and her two girls, Tillie Ann and Elizabeth.

Tillie and I shared a lot in common. In fact, in 1992, we came up to Washington together as members of the same class of elected representatives. This class was so dynamic, and filled with so many new and soon to be influential women members, that it was referred to as "The Year of the Woman."

One distinct adjective to describe Tillie is that she was a tremendous fighter. She struggled hard for what she believed in, and for the betterment of the people and the region she served. Above all, Tillie loved her country, and fought hard to protect the freedoms we enjoy—even the freedom to disagree. Tillie was a woman of great distinction, highly respected, and was always extremely active in her community. She served our country well, particularly in her strong support of the military, specializing in issues concerning women's roles and rights within the military. She was also a woman with strong leadership qualities and one who believed in the value of volunteerism and community service.

I also served with Tillie on the Transportation Committee, and we crossed party lines numerous times to work together to do what was best for the city of Jacksonville and North Florida as a whole.

In closing, my heart and prayers go out to Tillie's dear family during this difficult time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. COX).

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, Tillie Fowler was a giant in this Congress. Though she served only four terms, 100 percent faithful to her pledge to limit her service in this House, she rose to our elected leadership, and she kept us focused on national security as our highest priority. She was called the Steel Magnolia because she was a hybrid of a southern belle and a marine drill sergeant. She was best known for her roles on the Committee on Armed Services and in the House leadership where she consistently was the voice of the military, calling for a defense

budget and defense resources always sufficient to keep America strong.

It was Tillie's intellect and her willingness to work across the aisle that advanced her to a preeminent position as vice chairwoman of the House Republican Conference and as a deputy minority whip for 6 years. I worked with Tillie in our House leadership and on the House Policy Committee and on such special projects as the Speaker's Working Group on Russia.

Today, as the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I miss Tillie Fowler more than ever because nowhere was her national leadership more in evidence than in her work toward terrorism preparedness. As a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, her top priority was the country's preparedness for a domestic terror attack. She found overlap inadequacies among the Federal agencies, the many agencies that were responsible in those days for terrorism preparedness, and she tried to fix it.

A year and a half before 9/11, she drafted the Preparedness Against Terrorism Act of 2000. If we had followed her farsighted advice, the Congress would have placed top priority on elevating and consolidating the Federal Government's anti-terrorism efforts by creating a Presidential Council on Domestic Terrorism Preparedness. Tillie's legislation was not passed in the 106th Congress, but we soon came to realize through the tragic events of 9/11 that her focus and her proposed reforms were vitally necessary. As a result, many of her recommended reforms are included in what is now law, the Homeland Security Act.

She was truly the guardian angel of our national security. Tillie Fowler, our friend and colleague, dedicated her life to her community and our Nation. It was an honor to serve with her, and it will be an honor to carry on her work to ensure that America is always prepared so we may be always free. Our prayers are with her husband, Buck; with her daughters, Tillie Ann and Elizabeth; and with her entire family.

Tillie Fowler was a giant in this Congress. Though she served only four terms—100 percent faithful to her pledge to limit her service in this House—she rose to the Leadership of our ranks, and kept us focused on our national security as our highest priority.

She was called the "Steel Magnolia"—because she was a hybrid of a Southern belle and a Marine drill sergeant.

She was best known for her roles on the Armed Services Committee and in the House Leadership, where she was consistently the voice of the military, calling for a defense budget sufficient to ensure a strong America.

It was Tillie's intellect, and willingness to work across the aisle, that advanced her to a preeminent position of leadership as Vice Chairwoman of the House Republican Conference, and as a deputy majority whip for six years.

I had the wonderful opportunity to serve with Tillie in the elected Leadership, on the House Policy Committee, and on such vital national

security projects as the Speaker's Advisory Group on Russia.

Today, as the Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, I miss Tillie Fowler more than ever, because nowhere was her national leadership more in evidence than in her work toward terrorism preparedness.

As a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, her top priority was the country's preparedness for a domestic terrorist attack. She found overlap and inadequacies among the several federal agencies with jurisdiction over terrorism preparedness, and she tried to fix it.

A year and a half before 9/11, she drafted the "Preparedness Against Terrorism Act of 2000." If we had followed her far sighted advice, the Congress would have placed top priority on elevating and consolidating the federal government's anti-terrorism efforts by creating a Presidential Council on Domestic Terrorism Preparedness.

Tillie's legislation was not passed in the 106th Congress, but we soon came to realize—through the tragic events of 9/11—that her focus and her proposed reforms were vitally necessary. As a result, many of her proposed reforms were included in the Homeland Security Act, which is now law. She was truly the guardian angel of our national security.

Tillie Fowler, my friend and colleague, dedicated her life to her community and her nation. It was an honor to serve with her, and it will be an honor to carry on her work to ensure that America is always prepared, so that we may be always free.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my thoughts in remembrance of our dear friend and colleague, Tillie Fowler. I pay tribute to her, her service here, the events in her life that made her who she was with respect to her family and her community. I knew her here in this place.

I first got to know Tillie through her friendship with my late husband, Congressman Walter Capps. Walter and Tillie served only 10 months together before his death in 1997, and it might have appeared that they did not have much in common, but, in fact, they did. Tillie had been elected to a district that had been represented by a Democrat for 42 years. Walter's district had been represented by Republicans for 50 years. Both Tillie and Walter understood that it was more important to try to reach bipartisan solutions than to engage in partisan politics.

□ 2030

Even as she rose through the ranks of her party's leadership, and that has been attested to this evening, a strong and loyal leader within the Republican Conference, Tillie always tried to work across the aisle on issues that were important to her. One such issue where again she worked closely with my husband, Walter, was her support for the humanities. Like Walter, Tillie had once served as her State's humanities chair. And back in the days when fund-

ing for the National Endowment for the Humanities was in the crosshairs of congressional budget cutters, Tillie stood up to protect that program. The fact that support for the NEH is now stronger than ever in Congress is due in no small part to all of Tillie's efforts a few years ago.

She also helped to pioneer the bipartisan nature of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues. Here again, she tried to bring Members of both parties together to address the serious issues affecting American women, and she bravely challenged her own party leaders to moderate their relentless focus on reproductive rights.

After leaving the House, Tillie combined her military expertise with her support for women's rights when she headed up the panel to review sexual misconduct at the Air Force Academy. She also served on the panel charged with investigating prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib. These difficult assignments demonstrated Tillie's belief that we can best support our military by uncovering the truth and ensuring that these horrible scandals never be allowed to repeat themselves.

Tillie Fowler was a very proud Republican, and her party can be honored and proud of her. But she did not put her party over her principles. During one particularly tough election that I was engaged in, my opponent announced that Tillie had endorsed and would campaign for him. But she came up to me on the floor one day and told me that it was not true. As Eleanor Clift just wrote in her heartfelt Newsweek obituary, Tillie always said, "I can't sit next to them one day and campaign against them the next. If I'm your friend, then I'm your friend."

We will all dearly miss our friend Tillie and we mourn today that there simply are not enough people like her. She will be missed, and she will always be remembered with great honor.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the right honorable gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as so many of the viewers of CSPAN know by now, we are here today in great sadness but also in great joy that we celebrate a wonderful life exemplified by Tillie Fowler. We came together last week when we announced the unexpected death of Tillie Fowler, who passed away at the age of 62; but she made such a strong imprint on the lives of so many and on the lives of this House.

Tillie, as we have heard, was a fiercely loyal, dedicated public servant from our home State of Florida, a true crusader for the citizens of our State and especially for all who served in our Armed Forces, the men and women in uniform. She fought hard, especially for the women serving in the military so that they would be treated fairly, so that they would be free from sexual harassment, so they would be free from discrimination. During her four terms in Congress, Tillie became the highest-

ranking woman in the House leadership.

She possessed a quiet tenacity. She had the grace and the strength to rise above partisan differences and to continuously reach across the aisle in a true spirit of unity, as we just heard from my good friend from California (Mrs. CAPPS) who really showed that in a very clear way. Tillie was an outstanding member of our Florida team. She was a true asset to our community. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to have served in the House of Representatives with her.

I think it is most appropriate, Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate this week, which is the Stop Violence Against Women Week, that we celebrate Tillie's life and Tillie's work here in Congress, because through her tireless efforts, she worked to protect women from all types of injustices. During her short tenure in Congress, she and I worked together on a number of important women's issues, such as breast cancer research, the protection of our environment, the security of our women, so many issues that we were involved with.

All of us in the House extend our heartfelt condolences to Tillie's beloved husband, Buck; to their two beautiful daughters, Tillie and Elizabeth; and to the rest of her loving family. Our thoughts and our prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.

Thank you, Tillie, for your gentle leadership. You were a true friend to me, to our Florida community, to all whose lives you touched. You will be greatly missed. Our country is safer today because of Tillie's hard work, and the women who are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces are better protected because of your efforts, Tillie. Tillie leaves a strong legacy of service with honor, and it was my honor to call her my friend.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the honorable gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that we accept the loss of our good friend Tillie Kidd Fowler. Shakespeare wrote: "All the world's a stage and all the men and women are merely players. Each has an entrance and an exit. One in her time may play many parts."

So it was with Tillie. Tillie was the daughter of Senator and Mrs. Culver Kidd. She was, of course, sister to Rusty. She had another sibling who now lives in Macon, Georgia. Tillie grew up in Milledgeville, and she had politics in her DNA. Her father, Culver Kidd, a Yellow Dog Democrat, served under the gold dome in Atlanta for more than 3 decades. I had the good fortune of calling Culver friend and mentor; and when I was elected to Congress in 1992, Culver called to congratulate me, but he said, "I want you to meet my daughter. She was elected, also." As soon as I got here, I had the

good fortune to meet Tillie, and we became friends. Although we were on different sides of the aisle, when I had a difficult election, Tillie came over and said, how can I help? And she did help. She was very, very, very savvy, just as her father and her brother were; and she has been a true public servant.

Tillie and I shared the fact that both of us attended Emory University Law School. Both of us were selected to be among that distinguished group called the Distinguished Alumni. She and I join others who are blessed to have had our portraits hanging in the law school. Each year, about this time, we cohosted a reception for the newly elected students from the Washington, D.C. area to the Emory Law School. That reception is coming up soon.

But most importantly, Tillie was a friend to me and that friendship was because of my friendship with her father and her brother. Just a couple of weeks ago when I was in Atlanta, I ran into her brother and I inquired about Tillie, and he told me she was doing fine. Little did we know that we would be coming here tonight to say these wonderful things about Tillie because she had gone.

All the world is a stage and all the men and women are players. Tillie served in so many capacities. She was wife to Buck and mother to Tillie and Elizabeth. But through all of that, she touched our lives in so many ways. We are sad and only one who has worn the garment of bereavement can truly understand the pain that comes when one has been taken from the midst. Yet as we reflect prayerfully, our pain must turn into joy because truly all of us have been blessed to know, love and to have shared this life with such a wonderful woman as Tillie Kidd Fowler.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I yield to the honorable gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

(Mr. GOODLATTE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Jacksonville for leading this session in memory of our dear friend Tillie Fowler. I had the opportunity to first meet Tillie after I was elected to the House in 1992, the same year that she was. I found her to be a wonderful woman with a kind heart, but also a firm conviction who stood up strongly for her beliefs.

We found that we had many things in common. It turned out that we had a number of friends that we shared that we did not know anything about until we found each other here. My niece and her husband were dorm parents at Choate School in Connecticut where Tillie's children attended, and we shared many a story about that. She had friends in my congressional district in Lynchburg, Virginia, who were very dear to her and I found that I had friends in Florida that she knew as well.

One day I was driving through a car wash in my hometown of Roanoke, Vir-

ginia, and the car in front of me had a Tillie Fowler for Congress bumper sticker. This was right after the election in 1992. I had to stop the lady and tell her that I had just met Tillie and knew her. It turned out this was a very, very close friend of Tillie's who had moved to my district.

So it is with much sadness that I join my colleagues this evening in paying tribute to former Congresswoman Fowler, a devoted mother and wife, a public servant, a dear friend, and a woman of impeccable virtue and integrity, a truly remarkable woman. It seems as though Tillie succeeded in everything she attempted. She attended and graduated from Emory University and then Emory University Law School. After graduation she came to work as a congressional aide and then went on to serve as general counsel in the White House Office of Consumer Affairs from 1970 to 1971, after which she returned home to focus on her new family and volunteer activities. She was elected to the Jacksonville City Council in 1985 and served until 1992 when she successfully ran for Congress and served for 8 years.

In Congress, Tillie was the fifth-ranking Republican in the House of Representatives and served 6 years as the deputy conference chair. She also served on the House Committee on Armed Services where she was a strong advocate of the Navy. After serving in Congress, she continued her service to the country and served as a leader in Washington as an attorney with the Washington office of Holland & Knight.

Tillie and I both came to Congress in 1993, and we shared many stories all through the years that we served together. My sincerest sympathies are extended to Tillie's family. I hope that it comforts you to know that Tillie lived her life to the fullest and she did so with graciousness and integrity. She had, as I said, a kind heart and a firm conviction. She represented her constituents with dedication, tenacity, and fairness. For that reason, she earned the respect of her colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and she will be sincerely missed. It is my prayer that her family and the deep loss that they are suffering now will overcome that and have many, many, many fond memories of a wonderful and delightful woman who blessed all who ever knew her.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the honorable gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues here tonight because we are all deeply saddened by the loss of our former colleague and dear friend, Tillie Fowler. I first met Tillie in December of 1992. We were both of the newly elected class of the 103rd Congress. It was during that incoming freshman class that we met for the first time. We were to meet in this big room. As I came through that door, I was 32 years old. I did not even know where the bathrooms were. The first person I see

is this lady who is very gracious with these very large glasses with the most beautiful smile, and I knew that this had to be a Southern belle. Boy, was I right. I went over, immediately attracted to that smile, and we started talking. Then somebody called the meeting to order and Tillie and I sat down next to each other.

□ 2045

And what a beginning of a great relationship. Ironically, we were then appointed both to the House Armed Services Committee and were assigned committee seats then right next to each other.

During our tenure on the Armed Services Committee, I came to know and appreciate and respect the loyalty, dedication and hard work of Tillie. Although Tillie never served in the military, she understood and subscribed to the very same core values that I had been inculcated with and advocated by all members of the uniformed services.

To that end, we shared the same values and beliefs: Duty, honor, courage, commitment to God, country, family, and our fellow human beings. And for that, the Armed Services reciprocated in their love toward her.

In short, Tillie Fowler's values reflected a common theme of unswerving devotion and honorable service. As members of the Committee on Armed Services, we are faced with very difficult issues that would have and that in fact had a significant impact on military readiness.

JANE HARMAN, Tillie Fowler and I worked together on the Speaker's Task Force on Gender Training, a commission that reviewed the politically sensitive issues of coed training in the military services and the issues of sexual harassment in the military and sexual assaults.

Tillie and I fought hard together in order to try to prevent the closure of the Department of the Navy's live-fire trying range in Vieques in Puerto Rico. I also supported Tillie in her belief of a second port for CVNs to replace the carrier John F. Kennedy in Jacksonville.

And when it came to developing the TRICARE for life program for the over 65 military retirees, it was Tillie that I turned to who quietly assisted me in gaining the support of the Speaker and other Congressional leaders in this program.

Through it all, Tillie repeatedly distinguished herself with a sense of justice and always sound judgment. Her resolve and tenacity were always focused on ensuring that our military forces were physically, mentally and operationally prepared for war. She was known for her superior knowledge, her ethics and both physical and moral courage.

Above else, she was a woman of integrity and great dignity. It is individuals like Tillie that give the American system of Government, indeed this legislative body, honor and respect.

My friend will be remembered in history as one of the world's iron ladies, like Margaret Thatcher, Golda Meir, Tillie Fowler and others. As a colleague, she was a confidant and a true inspiration, someone that you could always turn to in a very difficult moment.

And Tillie always seemed to say the right words. She was like a human sponge. She would soak up and be such a great listener, and then she would always convey the right words, and you would walk by feeling good about yourself that you now have a direction, and she would do that in such warm personal leadership.

I am grateful for the time that we spent together in this chamber and thankful for the memories that she will leave with me. I am a better person for having known her, and the country is a better place through her efforts.

To her husband, Buck, and her daughters, Tillie and Elizabeth, I extend my heartfelt sympathy. To my friend Tillie, I know you are in heaven; vouch for me, my dear friend, so I may see you again.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I yield now to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD).

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to share a few remarks about my friend, our friend, the Honorable Tillie Fowler, who served with honor and distinction in this House. I shall remember her as someone with enormous capacity, inclusive and fiercely loyal to her friends on both sides of the aisle. Her sacred belief while serving in Congress was, I cannot sit next to them one day and campaign against them the next.

What a lady. If I am your friend, then I am your friend. As the politics around her grew more partisan and unkind through her tenure here, Tillie held her ground. She knew that, in order to get things done, she had to do away with partisan rancor. She was never reluctant to embrace an idea she felt strongly about.

She had a tiny frame, but a great heart and a giant heart. She was a good soul. Tillie wanted more women to get involved in politics and championed the issues women care so much about. She challenged us all of the time with a question: Does it matter whether women are involved in politics? Her career exemplifies that answer.

Upon entering Congress in 1992, Tillie was elected co-chairwoman of the Freshman Republican Task Force on Reform. And in her second term, she became a deputy whip for the Republicans. She was elected vice chairwoman of the House Republican Conference on the vow that she would serve no longer than 2 years in the Republican leadership.

When she left Congress in 2001, she was number five in the House leadership. Tillie served with distinction on the Armed Services Committee, which led the former Speaker, Newt Gingrich,

to give her and Representative JANE HARMAN the tough assignment of investigating sexual harassment in the Army.

Her experience on defense matters was not limited to gender issues. And she earned respect as an authority on a range of essential military issues. In 1998, it was indeed my privilege to ask Tillie Fowler to join me, as we would have the first memorial wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery honoring women in military service from the American Revolutionary Army until the present.

In subsequent years, Tillie never missed the annual occasion to stand with us women of the House at Arlington to honor current and past service-women. For all of us who will gather together again this May in Arlington, Tillie's absence will be felt and regretted. But she stands among the greatest of women of this country.

I think Tillie Fowler's career is a reminder of what we need to be about, a shining example for all women, civilian or in the military, seeking opportunities to become the best that one can be, to their families, to their Nation. Tillie Fowler was that lady. She will be sorely missed. My condolences go to her husband, Buck, and her two daughters.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I yield now to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. HARRIS).

(Ms. HARRIS asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from Jacksonville for hosting such an honorable memory to Tillie Fowler.

Mr. Speaker, America lost a remarkable leader last week. The people of Florida lost a passionate and effective ally, and our brave men and women in uniform lost a stellar advocate. I lost a dear friend.

Congresswoman Tillie Fowler was much more than a role model for women who followed her into public service. Though her trail-blazing example and her indomitable spirit will always inspire us, she was much more than northwest Florida's greatest promoter. Through her service, her dedication to the people will always guide us.

She was much more than a trusted colleague, to members of both parties, and her unimpeachable standard of honor and integrity will always instruct us.

In fact, today, I was even speaking with one of her colleagues at Holland & Knight, and we said, you know, we feel like she is still here, we can still see her smile, we can still see those big glasses, we can still hear her laughter. Not often does someone leave you and you still feel them so strongly.

Tillie Fowler's contributions as a public servant, as an attorney, as a civic volunteer and, most important, as a beloved wife and mother were routinely extraordinary. Why? Because at every stage of her life, she had the

courage to follow common sense and uncommon dreams.

Whether she was graduating as one of five women at Emory University Law School's class of 1967, or successfully challenging a political establishment dominated by male Democrats, Tillie Fowler never met a barrier that she could not shatter.

Yet, while fighting relentlessly for her principles for Florida and for America, she never lost her love of humanity, her charity or her grace.

Mr. Speaker, as we offer our prayers and condolences to her husband of 37 years, Buck, and her two lovely daughters, Tillie and Elizabeth, let us honor Congresswoman Tillie Fowler's memory by elevating our purpose as well as the means we choose to achieve it.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I yield now to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I, too, as a fellow Floridian would like to pay tribute tonight to my friend, Tillie Fowler.

Tillie was a role model, not just for the women who followed in her footsteps, but for all of us who attempt to represent our communities and our Nation with dignity and respect.

Through hard work and perseverance, Tillie was a true trail-blazer, one of five women in her class of 106 from Emory University's law school. She was the first female president of the Jacksonville City Council. As we recounted here tonight, in her 8 years in Congress, Tillie rose to the highest rungs of power in the United States Congress in the Republican Caucus.

But, in my opinion, what made Tillie so powerful and so special was not the positions that she held, it was the fact that she never lost sight of who she was here to serve. She never forgot where she came from. She relentlessly fought for the people she represented. She served the country. She served her community.

It was not just Tillie's resume that was impressive; it was her firm stance on the issues. When Tillie dug in, she dug in. She stood her ground. But she always treated everybody with respect. Regardless of whether they agreed with her or not, she always listened. She treated folks at home that way. She treated everybody that way, including Members of Congress.

And Tillie always kept her word. Probably one of the most difficult tests for Tillie was her decision to honor her 8-year term limit pledge. She was a person of her word. Regrettably, this Congress lost her much too soon. We have lost her much too soon on this earth.

Tip O'Neill once said, the sign of a successful politician is, from the time they start to when they finish their career, they have the same spouse, same home, same set of friends. He could have been talking about Tillie Fowler. Tillie was the same person from the day she was an adult to the day she left Congress. She never forgot who she was.

Tillie was also one of those rare Members of Congress whose service to the country and to the world only grew after she left the United States Congress. As has been recounted here tonight, she served on the Defense Policy Board Advisory Committee. She took charge of some very serious investigations about potential sexual abuse, about sexual misconduct, about prisoner abuse.

Tillie has been called, by many people here tonight and in the past and she will continue to be referred to as truly a steel magnolia. She was a powerful, delicate balance of grace and strength. She was fair in pursuing her goals, but always friendly, always warm, always caring, always time for a gentle word to a friend or colleague.

For these reasons, Floridians will always treasure, we will always appreciate, we will never forget the legacy of Tillie Fowler.

On behalf of my community, the Tampa Bay area, Tillie, thanks for your service. Thanks for being who you were. Thanks for the power of your example.

And to your husband, Buck, and to your daughters, thank you for sharing a precious amount of the too short life of your mother and your wife here with us in the United States Congress.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I yield now to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM).

Mr. PUTNAM. I thank my friend and colleague from Jacksonville and the successor to Tillie Fowler's great 4th District in Florida. And I appreciate the opportunity that you have given us all to share our feelings and our remembrances of this lovely woman.

And I think how sad it is that we so often save our kindest words for those that we love and care so deeply for until it is too late.

It is an honor to pay tribute today to a great Floridian, a woman who touched so many lives, including my own, and dedicated herself to making our State and our Nation a better place.

Congresswoman Tillie Fowler was a remarkable woman. She was an inspiration to us all, and she sought to bring out the very best in each and every American. Her optimism was contagious, as she brought a sunny disposition to the greatest of tasks and backed it up with a steel will.

Tillie was a public servant, in the truest sense of the word, who not only served her community in the Sunshine State but also her Nation. In the 8 years she spent in the halls of Congress, she earned a reputation as one of the hardest-working and most effective Members of this House.

□ 2100

After leaving this House, her service continued. In fact, I think it is a testimony to her abilities that some of her greatest challenges were given to her after she had retired from the House, as through her service she continued to support a strong and modern military

through her chairmanship of the Defense Policy Board and every other difficult task that the Secretary could pass her way.

We all mourn the loss of Tillie Fowler. Her distinguished leadership and grace will be dearly missed and her accomplishments and her legacy will be with us always. Tillie blessed our Nation through her hard work and her generous nature. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, her husband, Buck, and her two daughters, Tillie and Elizabeth.

May we all be worthy of the honor that she bestowed upon this House, and may we all work hard to maintain and to follow that blazing trail which she cut through for us.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, it is clear from what we have heard tonight the great esteem in which Tillie Fowler was held in this House. We have heard about her service in the community, we have heard about her service in local politics, and we have heard about her service here in the United States House of Representatives, as well as when she left this place. So I would simply say in closing that we all loved Tillie, we all will miss Tillie.

One of the things was, in spite of all the honors and accomplishments that came about in her short life, she was always just a great friend. As I said, I never had a chance to serve in this body with her because I took her place when she left, but knowing her for 35 years and watching her in the community, seeing how hard she worked, observing all the things that people have talked about tonight, it is just so clear the legacy that she leaves behind.

I can remember just a couple of occasions, once when she came to see me when she was going to run for the city council. She said, What do you think? I lived in that particular district; my brother had represented that area. I said, Tillie, it would just be magnificent if you would do that. You have been involved in the community; you have done so much. What a great service you would be. I said, You are going to be a star, I can just tell. I know you.

She became one of the first women to serve on our city council, the first Republican president of the city council, the first woman to be president of the city council. Then she went on to serve in this body. I think most people know she left in 2000 after serving for 8 years, not because she would not have been reelected overwhelmingly, but because she made a promise to the people in her district that she would only serve for four terms. It would have been very easy for her to decide that people needed her. She would have won overwhelmingly. But, true to who she was, she made a commitment and she kept it. It was as simple as that.

When I decided to run in 2000, I will never forget the night that I called Tillie to say, in a strange set of circumstances all this kind of came about, I said, I have decided to run in

the seat that you are going to vacate. You could feel this sense of excitement and enthusiasm over the telephone, that somebody that she had known for 35 years, and I am honored to say she believed in me, not only just helped me in the campaign, but paved the way for me in this body, to bring me up, introduce me to her friends, her colleagues, many whom you have heard tonight, just went out of her way to go above and beyond. That is just the kind of person she was.

She did everything wholeheartedly. She came to see me the last Friday, the following Monday is when she had the stroke, but true to form, she came to see me just to visit, to talk about things. She was almost like another Representative from the fourth district. She never stopped serving the people. We talked about issues that were important, and how she could help and "here are some ideas." Always, always on the go.

So, tonight we are sad. We will miss her. She will be missed. She will be missed not only by her family, she will be missed not only by her friends, not only by the people of Florida, but she will be missed by the people of this Nation whom she so proudly served.

Mr. HASTER. Mr. Speaker, America has lost a great public servant and a gracious lady.

When I became Speaker, Tillie Fowler was there with me at the leadership table, serving as the Republican Conference Vice-Chair.

But despite the burden of her many responsibilities, she always had time to be a friend.

She was an effective legislator because she always kept her word to her colleagues and constituents.

She rose within the Republican leadership and became one of the most powerful women in Congress. Despite her influence—she kept her word and honored her term limits pledge because she had promised her constituents she would serve no more than four terms.

After leaving Congress, she continued to devote herself to public service by serving on critical commissions related to her area of expertise in national defense.

Her selflessness and service to her community and family are the legacies she leaves behind.

The House is a better institution because of people like Tillie Fowler. We will miss her greatly.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her husband Buck and her two daughters Elizabeth and Tillie.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I discuss the life of the late Congresswoman Tillie Fowler. I knew Tillie during the eight years she served in the House of Representatives and remember vividly her strong work as a member of the House Transportation Committee. I join my colleagues in mourning her loss.

Tillie Fowler was born into a family with a tradition of leadership and service. Her father was a member of the Georgia legislature for 44 years. He urged her to go to law school because he had seen widowed women during the Depression unable to get a job and earn a decent living.

Following her graduation from law school, she worked as a House aide and as a general

counsel in the White House Office of Consumer Affairs.

As Vice Chairwoman of the House Republican Conference—number 5 in House leadership—she represented her constituents well and with distinction. She was a tireless advocate for a strong national defense, which was natural for her because her district was in the midst of several naval installations. Out of Congress she sustained her interest in the Armed Forces by serving on several influential panels. As always, she brought passion and professionalism to these difficult tasks.

I had occasion to work with her as a member of the Transportation Committee. I remember her as cordial and gracious, but always intensely passionate about the needs of her constituents. These traits helped her get the nickname "Steel Magnolia."

I join my colleagues in mourning the death of Tillie Fowler. She was a strong leader and good friend to all of us. On behalf of the people of the Third District of West Virginia, I extend condolences to her husband Buck and two daughters, Tillie and Elizabeth.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we are here to honor the memory of a woman whose life may not have been rich in the years that we all hope and pray for, but who enriched the lives of so many. Tillie Fowler's career was filled with accomplishments, and hear calling was to serve all: her family, her hometown, her state, her country, and her God.

Many glowing words have been used to describe Tillie's attributes this past week: bright, charismatic, determined, gracious, thoughtful, kind, unrelenting. Every one of them is true. There have been few political careers quite like hers, but thanks to her pioneering spirit, many paths have been charted to follow.

Tillie was a woman of deep conviction. No issue mattered more greatly to her than the security of our nation. She cared deeply about our servicemembers, and she acted on that concern during her tenure of service on the House Armed Services Committee. Tillie's trademark steadfastness could be seen in her unfailing support for a well-trained and well-equipped military. One small part of her legacy can be seen in this time of challenge for our country, when we are calling upon the skill and bravery of our people in uniform. We're realizing the quality force that Tillie Fowler helped to build. All Americans are grateful to our military, and I know that all branches of the service are grateful to their faithful and advocate from the Sunshine State.

I don't believe that Tillie ever once took her office or her constituents for granted. She was sincerely grateful for the chance to serve, and we saw that gratitude every day in her work ethic. Rarely has this body seen a Member who studies so tirelessly that with which she was responsible. Legislative Council once told her staff that they'd never seen a Member pore so intently over draft bill text! But this was indicative of the life of steady, consistent, and unfailing effort that she led on behalf of Jacksonville and the state of Florida. She was the embodiment of the Teddy Roosevelt quote that she favored repeating: "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

And to watch Tillie serve her fellow man, from her days in the Nixon White House to the halls of Congress, between and beyond, one might have thought she found even the smallest task worth doing, and that she believed

she'd won that prize. Yes, she was a lady of firsts; first woman to serve as President of the Jacksonville City Council; amongst the first handful of female colleagues on the Armed Services Committee; the highest ranking woman in Congress within just six years of arriving—in this institution built on seniority and tenure of service. And her groundbreaking achievements continued as she accepted and executed great responsibility at the behest of Secretary Rumsfeld. But as Tillie Fowler walked with giants, she never lost the common touch.

That may perhaps be her greatest legacy to us all. Even as she balanced her many duties, Tillie found the time to pay tribute to our Pages from the House floor. Because of the deep, personal interest she took in the lines of her staff, they remained extremely loyal, staying with her for many years.

It's evident that her attention to detail transcended paper and pencil; Tillie offered tremendous attention to the details of people's lives. Last week's Jacksonville Times-Union guestbook is a testament; everyone from Secretary of the Navy Gordon England, to those who checked her out at the supermarket, remembered Tillie's humaneness and genuine interest. One Jacksonville resident said, "Mrs. Fowler . . . obtained information on my father's WWII service for which I will always be grateful. When she left office she made sure that the process was completed by her successor. While she impacted this nation in so many positive ways, her attention to the details of one small request gives her a special place in the hearts of my family."

We can take a lesson from this. And our contribution to Tillie's legacy should be to continue her work here in Congress. Her remarks at the 1995 National Prayer breakfast can guide us:

For a Member of Congress, Washington can be a dangerous place, not because of crime, although that exists, but because every day we face the possibility of losing our perspective, of becoming tangled in the snares of business, partisanship and self-importance that lie all around us and which distract us from remembering why we are here. . . . In the mist of all the sound and fury it is very easy and very human to get carried away by some personal or partisan agenda and forget about the importance of actually accomplishing something constructive on behalf of the people who sent us to Washington.

It is statements like this that reflect why Tillie will be remembered not just as a conscientious public servant, but also as a human being who was unfailingly courteous and had a kind word for everyone she ever met. Regardless of party or point of view, we will always remember her with fondness and respect.

Tillie Fowler managed to fit an extraordinary amount of living and human impact in sixty-two years. She was a beloved wife, mother, sister, friend, and American patriot. Her name will live on in American history, and in the memory of all who were privileged to know her. While we mourn her passing, we take comfort in knowing that another chapter has just begun, and that this chapter will be far longer than the days she spent on this Earth.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to participate in the tributes in memory of former Congresswoman Tillie Fowler. Although she retired before I entered Congress, I was fortunate to work with her

while campaigning for my predecessor, former Congressman Floyd Spence. As Spence Campaign Manager in 1998, I learned firsthand of Tillie's warm and convincing personality. Her enthusiastic endorsement of Congressman Spence made her a hero of the Second District of South Carolina and propelled Congressman Spence to tremendous victory.

Tillie was a gracious friend and diligent public servant. She once remarked that she tried to live by her father's guidance "don't try to be popular. Just do the right thing." In following his advice, she became one of the most well respected and effective members of Congress. Through her quiet tenacity and steady leadership, Tillie solved difficult problems and achieved tremendous successes. She was committed to protecting Florida's bases, helping America's military families, and enabling our men and women in uniform to successfully defend our country. As we fight the War on Terrorism today, Tillie's accomplishments are more relevant than ever.

True to her word, Tillie retired after eight years of service in the House of Representatives. She continued to serve her country as Chairman of the Defense Policy Board Advisory Committee. She was awarded the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award and the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the highest civilian awards given by the Navy and the Department of Defense.

Tillie also possessed an extraordinary sense of purpose and a profound understanding of what matters most in life. Her dedication to her family and her friends was possibly her most admirable quality. She will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to Buck and her daughters, Elizabeth and Tillie.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of a dear colleague. I first met Tillie Fowler when I came to Congress in 1995. Tillie always stood out as someone Members could admire. The more we worked together, the more I grew to admire her. She always took time to give advice—no matter how busy she was.

Tillie would stick to her convictions regardless of who disagreed with her. Yet, at the same time, she was also very warm and friendly. Due to these characteristics Tillie earned the nickname "Steel Magnolia," which I thought really suited her.

Tillie was a staunch supporter of strengthening the defense of our country. She was also a strong conservative who wanted government to stop interfering in people's lives. Due to her strong stances and warm personality, Tillie was chosen as one of our top Republican Leaders; a position she filled with grace and wisdom.

To those of us who knew Tillie, simple words or speeches cannot describe her. Nor can they speak enough about the woman she was. I will always remember Tillie as more than just a colleague during my years here. I will remember her as a good friend.

May God bless Tillie and her family, and may we not forget the contributions she has made to our country.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, when former U.S. Representative Tillie Fowler passed away last week, we lost an inspiration, a mentor, a patriot, and a friend. From the time she first came to Congress, Tillie Fowler was committed above all else to serving the American people. Her warm manner, unmistakable intel-

ligence, clear understanding of defense policy, and obvious love for her country helped her quickly rise to a position of influence within the party. Despite her great responsibilities, Congresswoman Fowler remained deeply rooted in her community, and committed to those individuals she was elected to represent.

Tillie Fowler demonstrated to us all what a noble calling public service can be; and she still serves as an inspiration to many of us today, myself included. With the passing of Tillie Fowler, we truly lost one of the brightest stars the Sunshine State ever had to offer. Her legacy and influence will not be forgotten, for we are forever indebted to her for all that she was able to accomplish.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place into the RECORD a tribute to honor former Representative Tillie Kidd Fowler, who passed away unexpectedly on March 2, 2005.

Tillie was not only an extraordinary leader and a dedicated public servant, she was also a dear and loyal friend.

Tillie and I came to the Congress together in 1993, and worked together on many issues during the eight years she served her constituents in the communities of Jacksonville, Florida. Tillie was kind, intelligent and thoughtful. She put aside partisanship and politics for the good of the American people. Too few today speak with courtesy and respect when in disagreement with a colleague on important issues, but Tillie always did. These attributes earned her enormous respect among Republicans and Democrats alike, and undoubtedly played a role in her rise to Chairwoman of the House Republican Conference, placing her fifth in the Republican leadership hierarchy.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, Tillie was a champion of a strong national defense and worked tirelessly to improve military culture in the U.S. and abroad. She continued this good work after her retirement from Congress in 2001, serving on the Defense Policy Board Advisory Committee where she aided the Secretary of Defense on strategy and policy matters. She also served on several panels to investigate allegations of discrimination and sexual misconduct at the U.S. Air Force Academy, as well as prisoner abuse in Iraq. Her work to improve our nation's military is second to none and she will be remembered for her role in eliminating intimidation, discrimination, harassment and assault from the culture of our military.

The State of Florida, our nation and those of us who are Members of Congress have lost a true friend and wonderful leader.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life of Tillie Fowler and in extending our deepest sympathies to her beloved husband Buck, their daughters Tillie and Elizabeth, and their entire family.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in paying special tribute to a unique patriot and a great American. Tillie Fowler was known as a "Steel Magnolia" because she was a grand class act with enormous strength of character.

Tillie and I worked together on a host of defense-related issues, including the Depot Caucus which I co-chair. In a world of Republicans and Democrats who often see only the worst in each other, Tillie stood out as a hard-nosed realist and a reliable partner for any Member of Congress who stood with her on an issue.

She didn't see party affiliation as the most important aspect of a colleague; she judged

each of us individually, by how we worked on issues important to Florida, the district she represented, and to the nation.

We served together on the House Armed Services Committee, and we traveled together on behalf of the House of Representatives. She cared deeply about the national security of the United States and about her constituents in Florida.

She was a remarkable public servant; she broke the mold, becoming the first woman and first Republican to serve as council President of the Jacksonville City Council in 1985. She was a woman of her word—here in Congress and with the people she represented so well here.

When she first ran, she pledged to only serve here for 6 years. Very few members who make such a pledge actually keep it in the end. But Tillie did. She was as good as her word on any matter. She made the most of her service here, becoming the 5th ranking Republican in the House by 2000.

After she left the House, she remained actively engaged in matters of national defense. In 2001 she was appointed to the Defense Policy Advisory Board by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. She also continued to be involved in local civic and business affairs.

She always took on the hard issues, investigating sexual assaults at our military academies and torture at prisons in Iraq . . . both difficult and thankless jobs. Tillie was a rare breed—a class act and a scrappy fighter.

Tillie was the picture of grace and compassion. Public service was genetic for her; her father was former Georgia State Sen. Culver Kidd.

I will miss my friend; I fully expected to be working with her in the upcoming BRAC deliberations this year. She was tenacious, she was gracious and she was a beautiful soul. Her family—her husband, Buck, and their daughters—will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to hear of the sudden passing of my former colleague, Tillie Fowler. My prayers and deepest regrets go out to her and her immediate family, Buck, and her two girls, Tillie Ann and Elizabeth.

Tillie and I shared a lot in common. In fact, in 1992, we came up to Washington together as members of the same class of elected representatives. This class was so dynamic, and filled with so many new and soon to be influential women members, that it was referred to as "The Year of the Woman."

One distinct adjective to describe Tillie is that she was a tremendous fighter. She struggled hard for what she believed in, and for the betterment of the people and the region she served. Above all, Tillie loved her country, and fought hard to protect the freedoms we enjoy—even the freedom to disagree. Tillie was a woman of great distinction, highly respected, and was always extremely active in her community. She served our country well, particularly in her strong support of the military, specializing in issues concerning women's roles and rights within the military. She was also a woman with strong leadership qualities and one who believed in the value of volunteerism and community service.

Even though Tillie worked on the opposite end of the political spectrum, I recognize tremendous contributions Tillie made, and influence she had within the Republican Party. In

1998 in fact, she was chosen by her colleagues within the Republican Party to be the Vice Chairman (or Chairwoman) of the Republican Conference. This honor made her the highest ranking woman in the U.S. Congress at the time she retired, in 2000. She also served for 6 years as Deputy Majority Whip in the Party, paving the way for future women to move up the political ranks here on Capitol Hill.

Moreover, when she obtained a seat on the House Armed Services Committee, she was the only Republican woman at that time on the committee. Given the tremendous influence the military plays in the city of Jacksonville, her appointment to this committee was more than critical. Upon leaving Congress, Tillie worked hard to ensure a strong U.S. military was recognized by the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of Defense. She went on to receive the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award and the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, both of which was the highest civilian awards given by the Navy and DOD.

Additionally, I served with Tillie on the T & I committee, and crossed party lines numerous times to work together and do what was best for the city of Jacksonville and North Florida as a whole.

My heart and prayers go out to Tillie's dear family during this difficult time. They will remain in my thoughts and prayers.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Congresswoman Tillie Fowler, our friend and former colleague who recently passed away.

Tillie Fowler was a unique individual. She was tough. She was smart. She was determined. She was gracious. She was an effective advocate for her Jacksonville-area constituents. She also was a loving wife and devoted mother, as well as a friend of mine.

Born in Georgia as the daughter of a politician, Tillie quickly distinguished herself as a force with which to be reckoned. She earned a law degree from Emory University. She became a congressional aide and White House staffer. She was elected President of the Jacksonville City Council.

Tillie won election to Congress in 1992 and did such a good job that she was unopposed in her three subsequent elections. She became the most powerful woman in Congress during her time here, rising to become Vice Chair of the House Republican Conference. She willingly retired from Congress after serving eight years, though her public service continued until the day she died. Those who knew her remember her wisdom, common sense, fairness, and gentle disposition that could disarm even the most hardened opponent.

Mr. Speaker, Tillie once said that "I'd rather have people's respect than have them like me." I think I speak for all of us when I say that she gained our love, admiration, and respect. I join our colleagues in mourning Congresswoman Tillie Fowler's passing and celebrating her life. I extend my thoughts and prayers to her husband, Buck, and her daughters, Tillie and Elizabeth.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Tillie Fowler, America has lost a great American, dedicated public servant, and friend to many.

Ms. Fowler's distinguished career in public service started as a legislative assistant to Representative Robert J. Stephens, Jr. For the

next 37 years, Ms. Fowler served our Nation in many different capacities culminating in her election as a Republican representative in Congress. I had the honor of serving with Ms. Fowler on the Armed Service Committee. I have not known a stronger supporter of national defense, those who serve in the military, and their families.

After leaving Congress, Ms. Fowler remained dedicated to our country. She has done extraordinary work helping lead the commission reviewing sexual harassment at our Nation's military academies. I am pleased that we were able to continue our professional working relationship when Tillie left Congress, and that we were still in touch this year working on mutual issues of interest for the San Diego Airport Authority.

Tillie K. Fowler was not just a colleague, she was a friend. She will truly be missed, by me and a grateful Nation.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues today in this special order tribute to the life and achievements of our former colleague, Congresswoman Tillie Fowler, who passed away suddenly last week.

I had the privilege of serving with Tillie. She was a good person—a woman of honesty and integrity—and a remarkable public servant. She had a distinguished eight-year tenure in the House of Representatives. When she retired in 2001 after a self-imposed four-term limit, she was the highest-ranking woman in the House leadership, serving as the vice chairman of the Republican Conference. She also served for six years as a deputy majority whip.

Representing the area around Jacksonville, Florida, Tillie quickly made a mark in the House after her election in 1992. She obtained a seat on the House Armed Services Committee, the only Republican woman on the committee at that time, enabling her to represent well the military and naval installations in her northern Florida district.

She also served on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and chaired the Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations and Emergency Management, from which she led an investigation of the nation's preparedness for a domestic terrorist attack. Eighteen months before 9/11, she authored legislation that would have centralized federal anti-terrorism efforts. After the 2001 terrorists attacks, many of the reforms she proposed were enacted in the creation of Department of Homeland Security.

She gained a reputation as a knowledgeable and articulate advocate for a strong U.S. military and when she retired from Congress, she received the highest civilian awards given by the U.S. Navy and the Department of Defense—the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award and the Defense Department's Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

An attorney by profession, Tillie became a Washington-based partner in the Holland & Knight law firm after leaving Congress, but also continued her public service work. She served on the Defense Policy Advisory Committee, later chairing the panel—the first woman to head the board in its 20-year history—which advises the secretary of Defense on strategic planning matters. She also led a panel created by Congress in 2003 to investigate allegations of sexual misconduct at the U.S. Air Force Academy, and was a member of a blue-ribbon panel which advised the De-

fense secretary last year on issues related to the allegations of prisoner abuse by U.S. military personnel at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

Tillie Fowler was a wonderful person, the beloved wife of Buck Fowler of Jacksonville and devoted mother of two daughters, Tillie Fowler of Washington, D.C., and Elizabeth Fowler of San Francisco.

We mourn her sudden passing and offer our deepest sympathies to the Fowler family and the many, many friends and colleagues in both the public and private sectors whose lives were touched and enriched by Tillie Fowler.

DEFENDING SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOHMERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to draw attention to some of the hundreds of letters that I receive every week from constituents who are outraged or frightened by the President's plan to privatize Social Security. Americans of all ages know that the President's private accounts are a risky change that will do nothing to alleviate Social Security's long-term financial pressures. As more details of this plan trickle out of the White House, Americans are not communicating a mandate; they are expressing outrage and fear.

Social Security is the single most successful anti-poverty program in our country's and government's history. I intend to do all that I can to make sure that this program survives this current attack, and I know that millions of Americans are joining in this effort.

I hear from those that I have the honor of representing in Wisconsin's Second Congressional District every day. They write to tell me about their profound concern with this plan, and they also write to tell me about the profound difference that Social Security has made in their lives. They write to share their fears about how privatization could jeopardize their retirement. They write to express frustration that our President has proposed a scheme that would dismantle Social Security, not strengthen it for future generations.

I have come to the floor tonight to share portions of these letters that I receive on a daily basis, and I hope that those who seek to privatize and to dismantle Social Security are listening this evening. I will also be joined by colleagues tonight who wish to share the words and stories of the constituents that they represent with the American public.

I would like to start this evening with excerpts from a few letters concerning the general importance of the Social Security program.

Ann, from Madison, writes: "I am appalled at the changes suggested for Social Security. If you have known anyone living on it entirely, the monthly

amount cannot be cut at all without leaving the retiree or the disabled person in utter poverty. Private plans have been tried and failed in a number of other countries. You only have to look at the last several years to see what could happen to someone reaching retirement age in the wrong time or period. If the administration wants to experiment, let the government do it and take the risks. If this fails, are we really going to let that frail, 80-year-old for whom work is no longer an option, starve sitting on the curb?"

Mary, also from Madison, writes: "I stand behind you in your fight against privatization of Social Security. I do not believe that privatization is a good idea at all. From everything I have learned about this issue, Social Security privatization would reduce benefits because of increased overhead costs and would also transfer the risk from the government to the individual. Also that move is likely to reduce benefits."

Mary continues: "I am 31 years old, so I am a person who supposedly would be helped by the privatization of Social Security. But I don't believe it. And even if I were personally helped, I do not believe the financial risk to my fellow Americans that they would incur is worth any possible benefit I would receive."

Doug writes: "Among many other things that concern me deeply in regards to the Bush administration, it is this whole Social Security business that is going on. Inherent in the definition of the name 'security' and the principle of Social Security is the fact that it is secure and guaranteed. That fundamental right, that we pay in, that we will get out, is essential to the whole idea of the plan and the system. I think it would set a very bad precedent if that whole idea were struck down."

Marcie, from Madison, writes: "I find the changes Bush proposes for Social Security to be very scary at best. There is already an ever-growing gap between the haves and the have-nots in this country, and this will only make the situation worse. The haves already know about investing or can afford to hire someone to advise them. How many of the have-nots know much about investing or have the time or the ability to learn? If the changes go through, I hope they will at least change the name. There will be no social, all citizens contributing to the well-being of others in our society, and no security. There will no longer be a safety net for those retiring and those who are disabled."

And Marcie brings up a very important point: "Seniors are not the only people who rely on Social Security benefits. People receiving survivor benefits and disability benefits make up 31 percent of the Social Security program. Social Security is insurance, a safety net that we can all expect to benefit from when we retire, but it is also an insurance or safety net that you could benefit from before you re-

tire. None of us aspire to benefit from the survivor or disability portions of Social Security, but they are there for all of us, just in case we need them."

Before I read some additional letter excerpts from those who have received Social Security for disability or as survivors, I would like to yield to my colleague who I thank for helping to co-organize this evening's Special Order on Social Security, my friend, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman, and I commend the gentlewoman from Wisconsin for truly putting this together and taking the time to make sure that all of America gets to hear what has got to be a mosaic of concern all across this country, because, like the gentlewoman and myself, several others have conducted town hall meetings and forums and have received letters of concern from our constituents all across this great country of ours. It is quite compelling when you both read the mail and you listen to the citizens of this great country speak their minds.

I was particularly struck by a gentleman from Windsor, Connecticut, who wrote me and said: "I would like to encourage you to oppose President Bush's Social Security personal accounts with every resource possible. I turned 54 this year, missing the cutoff for retaining my full promised benefit by 7 months. I am not a spend-thrift who has wasted his money over the years. In fact, I have placed at least 10 percent of my earnings in retirement savings plans since 1978. I fully fund my 401(k) and my Roth. But I have no pension, and my wife is not even eligible for a 401(k) or equivalent since she works for the Manchester School District as a tutor."

"Despite all my efforts to save, I will not have enough to retire on without the guarantee of Social Security. Why? Because I worked for five companies between 1984 and 2000 that all went out of business or left Connecticut: Heublein, Ames, Shawmut, Northeast Savings and International Paper. Each time I was forced to find another job, I lost a year of contribution to my 401(k) and another year of employer match, through no fault of my own. That adds up to quite a bit of savings that have been lost. I am putting one child through college and I have another yet to go. I have no more to save. I have always supported my family and paid my own way. I am relying on the Social Security system my employers and I have already contributed about \$200,000 to, to live up to its promises. If the government of the United States can turn its back on its promises to its own citizens, of what value is it?"

□ 2115

"Please, help me and every other person in my shoes."

It is this kind of poignant response that we have heard from our citizens all across the country that screams out for this Congress to take action.

One little woman in my district, part of the golden girls, her name is Gracie Vigneau, stood up and said, I understand that there are three legs to this stool. I understand the importance, having lived through the Great Depression, having fought and persevered through the Second World War, having come home and rebuilt this Nation, but I always felt that we had this special contract, that guarantee from our government, that third leg of the stool, if you will, that was the Social Security guarantee. It provided the floor, the safety net from which nobody could fall through. That was the contract that came out of the, well, the Great Depression and its aftermath, and what it did to so many people and how it ruined their lives. Yet, today, we see the problems that exist both in pensions and personal savings, which are in far greater crisis than Social Security."

And so she asks, "Why would we place any element of risk in the program that is there for our guarantee?" She said, "I will be long gone." She said, "I am concerned about my children and their children and their children's children."

This has been the most successful program in the history of this country, and it has kept so many people out of the depths of poverty. Just last week we talked about the impact that this program has had on women and how they are disproportionately disadvantaged and how crippled they would become if the so-called Bush plan were ever to go into effect.

So I commend the gentlewoman. I have other things, other letters to read as well in this dialogue that we have here this evening, this important dialogue with the American public, that they have with us placed their trust, and where we have sworn to give our very best.

I know that we are joined by the gentleman from New Jersey, and I will yield back to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin so that she may recognize another outstanding member of this caucus.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), my friend and colleague.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Wisconsin and the gentleman from Connecticut for arranging this discussion.

Madam Speaker, America is all abuzz about this discussion on Social Security, and that is because it is recognized from coast to coast, from every little village to every city, as very important. It is recognized, I would say, as one of the great accomplishments of America in the past century.

One of my constituents wrote me saying, "Representative HOLT, please remind the Members of the House of Representatives how important Social Security has become for American families."

And she tells an important story that brings up a part of Social Security that

we sometimes forget. The discussion often concerns retirement. But she tells the story of how her mother was widowed, and she and her two brothers were left without their father when he died in 1931. This was before Social Security was passed. "We had to return," she said, "to my mother's family home where we were reminded constantly how fortunate we were that we were from a family willing to take us in." She grew up feeling like a charity case.

But the story goes on. A couple of decades later, when her brother died young at age 38, his five children received Social Security survivor benefits until they were able to care for themselves. They stayed in their own home, went to the same school and never had to feel like charity cases.

Social Security survivor benefits, just as Social Security retirement benefits, bring with them not just money but dignity. This story, I think, highlights one of the important aspects of Social Security.

Another constituent wrote to me and said, "The President claims that placing Social Security savings into mutual funds will yield a positive result. Mutual funds still have risk. They go up and down. I have lost capital in several mutual funds. The average person is not an investment sophisticate."

Another resident of Central New Jersey writes to his representative, "It is bad enough that corporate America is trying to take away employee retirement and benefits. Now the President is talking about taking away Social Security."

Madam Speaker, they see this as taking it away something that they have earned, something they are entitled to.

Anyway, he says, "I don't want to save Social Security just for my generation, but for all generations. I believe it is the best and most needed program the government ever came up with. I believe Senator DOLE said it best when he headed a committee a couple of decades ago dealing with Social Security. When large corporations or even the State of California wanted to drop out, the Senator said, Social Security is not a tax; it is a Federal retirement plan that everyone has to be in for it to work."

I am sure my colleague from Wisconsin has had a similar situation, has had similar experiences. When I go before a group of Social Security recipients, I ask: Is there anyone here ashamed to take Social Security? And they all chuckle and say, of course not, because we have earned it, because Social Security is for everyone. And everyone knows that it is for everyone. It is not for the ones who are clever in the market. It is not for the ones who are welfare cases. It is an earned benefit that brings with it dignity in the non-wage-earning years, those years of retirement or years after the family breadwinner has died or those years when disability makes it impossible to earn wages. It brings income and dignity in all of those cases. And like my

colleague, I have heard it now from thousands, and I am not exaggerating, of my constituents.

I thank the gentlewoman for arranging this discussion.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words and also for the spotlight he has put on the words of his constituents.

I was mentioning, as the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) just did, about the 31 percent of all Social Security beneficiaries who are not retirees but are, in fact, disabled workers or survivors. I would like to have my colleagues hear from some additional constituents of mine who fit in that category and are advocating in that manner.

Martha from Madison writes, "I can speak to the power of Social Security professionally as well as personally. I work for an agency that assists adults with developmental disabilities. For these individuals, much, if not all, of their livelihood comes from monthly Social Security checks. Few of us could live on \$58.77 a month. Their lifestyle is not extravagant, but it is possible. More personally, my family has seen the effects of Social Security."

Martha writes, "My husband became unable to work just as he was entering the prime of his life. How would a privatized plan secure my family as we raise our three children? How would a privatized plan continue to address my family's needs over the next 40 years as we age and retire? My greatest fear is that those who are most removed from poverty are in the decision-making positions. It is perhaps too easy for the President and those like him to assume that all Americans have the means to weather life's most unexpected storms."

Kathy from McFarland, Wisconsin, wrote, "I lost my daughter in July. She was 31 and left two children, ages 12 and 8. It is Social Security that is providing a safety net for my grandchildren. My daughter paid for this. My husband and I paid for this. And my son, who served in Iraq, paid for this."

Stephanie from Madison writes, "I am writing to encourage you to reject President Bush's plan to partially privatize Social Security. When my father died in 1958, my sister and I were 9 and 15 years old. My mother had never graduated from high school, so she was only able to get low-paying jobs. If it hadn't been for our survivor benefits, I don't know what we would have done. As it was, my mom's budget was very tight. People need to realize that Social Security isn't just for seniors; it also pays out survivor benefits as well as disability benefits. All of us are simply one accident or disease away from needing Social Security."

Before proceeding to other letters from my constituents, I would like to yield time to my distinguished colleague from the State of Michigan, a leader on this issue, a champion on this issue on the Committee on Ways and Means, to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman, and congratulate her on doing this. What we are doing here tonight, I say to my colleague from Connecticut and, later on, from California, and my good colleague from New Jersey, is to read some of the letters that we have been receiving from constituents. There are so many, I thought I would read just three of them, and then let others carry on. I hope we will continue to do this, because it brings home to Washington what we hear at home and what comes from home, what comes from home.

The first letter comes from a constituent in Clinton Township, Michigan. She wrote to a colleague of mine, and under our procedures, it was transferred to our office. And it reads, "The Bush administration has placed Social Security on the top of the domestic priority list, but should it be? The 'crisis', and that is in her quotes, 'they are trying to fix has been taking in more money than it has paid out since the 1980s. If left untouched, our current system would be capable of paying full benefits until 2042 and 75 percent after that.'"

"If this administration wants to fix a crisis, they should begin with the national debt that" and there is a word left out I think, "that have created over the past 4 years. Increasing the deficit each year has weakened our country tremendously. Furthermore, allowing Social Security reform would cost the government between \$1 trillion and \$2 trillion. We live in an economy of job loss, underfunded schools, costly health care, and debt. The problems of today still need to be confronted, so why is this their focus in 2042? Reducing benefits would deprive citizens of the stability they deserve during retirement. The Bush administration is attempting to undermine the very concept of Social Security by doing so. If we allow this reform, the future of numerous citizens would be placed in jeopardy. This need to privatize Social Security is fiction, but the national debt is not." This is a wise constituent. All our constituents are wise; this is one who may be especially wise.

"Our government should be working to strengthen stability within our country, not weaken it. My suggestion to the Bush administration is this: Fix the problems you have created before addressing those of 2042. Continuing to ignore the issues of today will not ensure a better future for tomorrow."

□ 2130

It was sent, and we checked with this constituent to make sure we could use her name, Colleen Szeliga.

Let me just read a second letter that is much briefer. I think the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) mentioned a letter from someone who had worked in the system. This is a brief letter from Jeanne Polisei who says the following in a letter to me: "I worked for SSA for 18 years. I know,"

and it is underlined, "what a great program it is. I know it has done wonders for people who would otherwise be poor. Please do all you can to keep this program as it is. Wall Street is not dependable but SSA is."

If I may take a minute to read an excerpt from a letter. I will just read an excerpt because we did not have a chance to reach this constituent, so I will not mention the name or place this fully in the RECORD. Just the heart of this letter that was written November 10, 2004. This is her handwritten letter and I will read it exactly as it is: "My daughter is on childhood benefits on her dad's work record and this is the only source of income, just as I am on widows benefits. We are both on Social Security. This has made" and I think the word me is left out "so sick with worry. What Bush wants to do is 'privatize' Social Security."

And then she goes on to say: "The late President Roosevelt set this up as a trust fund for families and their children and the disabled. This is not his money." And then I finish with this: "My husband worked hard for this money and died before his time. I pay the mortgage, the utilities, and food on the table. It is a daily struggle just to make ends meet from month to month."

So this letter and the others and the ones other Members have read and those that will be coming express so directly and poignantly what this struggle is all about. It is to indeed to save and strengthen Social Security. We are willing to step up to the plate as we were 20 years ago. What we do not want to do is to weaken and dismantle it. And these letters express why this is so important for the people of our Nation.

So carry on with more letters. We are going to keep reading the letters to get this message across as to what the diversion of monies from Social Security to private accounts would really mean for the people of this country. And I think another time we will be reading letters from younger people because they have so much at stake and would be hurt so badly by the effort of the President to take monies out of Social Security, put them into private accounts, making the shortfall worse, not less, and undercutting a program that has meant so much in terms of independence for those on Social Security and will mean so much for my children and my grandchildren.

I thank the gentlewoman very much for giving me this opportunity.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I wanted to ask the leading Democrat on Social Security on the Committee on Ways and Means, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) discussed very eloquently and poignantly, as the gentlewoman pointed out in her letters, the number of people outside of the retirement benefits, but survivors benefits and also those on disability, what are the statistics on that?

Mr. LEVIN. About 30 percent of Social Security benefits go to those who

are disabled and those who are family members. And the President said, if I might take another 30 seconds, that they would not be affected, the disabled. But that does not work out because what he has called a good blueprint provides for major benefits cut. And the plan, the second plan of the commission that is part of that good blueprint does affect the disabled. And if you were to have these massive cuts over time, especially hurting younger workers, for retirees and not for the disabled, it would mean deeper cuts yet for younger workers who are going to retire.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. So when the gentleman says the President's good blueprint will in fact weaken Social Security, that is exactly what it is doing?

Mr. LEVIN. It would not only weaken it; but one last point, it would in the end shrivel it next to nothing and mean its demise because of the cuts in benefits and what is called the clawback which would be an offset against your Social Security of what is in your private accounts and that would be for younger workers, about 70 percent of what was left in your Social Security benefits. So in the end the younger worker in most cases would end up less in both, end up with less in both than if Social Security had not been destroyed. And the Social Security part of it would be so small that it would no longer be sustainable. And that is why this privatization by diversion of Social Security monies is essentially a path to the dismantling of Social Security.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Has the administration now admitted that that will not in any way, shape, manner or form close the gap that exists?

Mr. LEVIN. The privatization proposal does nothing to address the shortfall and, indeed, makes it worse.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I thank the gentleman for clarifying that.

Ms. BALDWIN. I thank the gentleman for his tireless leadership on protecting our Social Security system and amplifying the voices of your constituents' very powerful letters. I would like to yield to my distinguished colleague from the State of California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, we held two public forums in the 33rd Congressional District in Los Angeles, California; and I would like to just quote from three of the speakers that participated.

This one is from Miss Nina Diamante Vera, and she is worried that the proposal for private accounts would put her hard-earned retirement savings at the mercy of the stock market. She was compelled to write me a letter to warn me of the perils of private investment. And she said: "I lost \$90,000 in the stock market. The privatization program will only make stockbrokers richer. It is the stupidest thing that President Bush has done." That is the quote.

The stock market is a fluctuating vehicle for savings. It goes up, but it also goes down. The administration should be working with Congress to promote personal wealth and savings through investment but not at the cost of Social Security.

Then Ms. Verdine F. Alston. Ms. Alston is an 89-year-old widow. She is concerned about the Republican proposals for Social Security. This is an American that has contributed to society for most of the 20th century. And she states: "Please stop President Bush from privatizing Social Security. I have paid into Social Security since it started and before I was to vote. I am now 89 years old and a widow. My husband has been deceased for 10 years, and his pension just expired. I am dependent solely on Social Security."

Now, it is unacceptable to pull the rug out from under our senior citizens. A proud American, Ms. Alston stressed the wisdom of a past President and said, "The very first time I voted was for President Roosevelt when I was 21 years old. Social Security is not welfare."

And according to the National Partnership For Women and Families, Social Security provides 90 percent or more of the total income for 44 percent of nonmarried women 65 and older, 66 percent of nonmarried Hispanic women 65 and older, 74 percent of nonmarried African American women 65 and over, and 35 percent of all nonmarried men 65 and older.

Now, Marvin Tavlin, who is a 90-year-old legislative chairperson for the Westside Chapter Alliance of Retired Americans, said it is important to remember that our country is made up of compassionate Americans, many of whom study the history of our great country. And during the town hall meeting that I just held in February, Mr. Tavlin asked if he could share his modern Gettysburg Address with us, and it goes like this:

"Three score and 10 years ago our fathers brought forth to this Nation a new idea, a compact between the government and the people to promote the general welfare and for the first time in our history to guarantee the Social Security of our senior citizens. We are now engaged in a great political battle testing whether the new concept can truly endure. The dedicated men and women, living and dead, who fought so long to achieve this worthy goal inspired us to carry on their tradition. It is now up to us, the living, to rededicate ourselves to the great task remaining before us, to guarantee that this renowned social program for the American people who have worked and struggled so long and so hard for their families, their communities and their country; yes, that this great social program shall never perish from the land."

We gave him great applause because I think he spoke for most Americans.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for sharing with America the powerful words and

stories of those who she proudly represents.

I am now delighted to yield to one of our new colleagues who we are so proud has joined us from the State of Missouri. We know that this gentleman has been home in his district listening to his constituents actively providing them an opportunity to speak to him and tonight to America through him. I am honored to recognize the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN).

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join in tonight and share some of my experiences over the last few weeks.

Like many of our fellow Members here in the Congress, my office has been flooded with letters about Social Security and what it has meant to people across this country by many people in my district in the St. Louis area of Missouri. I have received in my office alone over 1,000 letters from people concerned about these privatization schemes that have been talked about in Washington. I scheduled, based on those meetings, two town hall meetings. Each one had over 200 people that attended.

□ 2145

It was not just seniors. We had people there that were baby-boomers and my generation. We had young people there. We had people that were not just retirees, but people who had been survivors and people who had disabilities. They all had been beneficiaries in some way from this vital American program.

We talked about what it has meant to our country, to their families. We also talked about the success of the program, how it has been studied and mentioned as one of the most efficient programs in our government's history, only having 1.5 percent overhead. So it is a great model to look at in terms of efficiency and delivering vital services to our country.

People are very concerned about their Social Security, the real bedrock foundation of their retirement security being subjected to benefit cuts, being subjected to broker fees, being subjected to the risk of the stock market.

One of my constituents in particular stood up and shared her own personal story. She knew too well the potential risk of depending on the stock market for a guaranteed source of income. She was a 70-year-old grandmother from Arnold, Missouri, and she shared her story in front of about 200 people.

In 1999, a stockbroker had encouraged her to transfer \$155,000 from a mature CD and invest it with the broker's local firm. The broker put her money into an aggressive investment account that, at her age, would not have been highly advised. Her investments now were worth only \$85,000. She says that if it were not for her monthly Social Security checks she and her husband would be under great financial strain. For people like her, privatization would be a disaster.

Social Security beneficiaries, including survivors, children and those who

are disabled, stand to lose the most under President Bush's plan. His proposed changes will not help preserve benefits for those who depend on them the most.

Let us strengthen Social Security, the very foundation of retirement security in this country, and if we are going to have discussions about private accounts, let us talk about those in addition to and on top of this solid foundation of Social Security.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the Congressman and I am very pleased that he brought up the issue of the risk that Social Security would be subject to if these private accounts were allowed to occur, and I have just a couple of letters on that point too that I wish to share.

Jack from Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, writes me, "Tammy, thanks for your hard work to keep the promise of Social Security. This privatization plan is about the dumbest thing that Bush has come up with besides the war in Iraq. We have a privatization deal now via IRAs, and let me tell you, my wife and I lost over half of our investment in our IRA accounts after 2000. The only people that will make money in this deal are the brokers."

Another one here, Cheryl, from Madison, writes, "I have deep concerns with President Bush's proposal. By privatizing a portion of Social Security, you have added an element of risk. Some people may come out ahead, others may not. The safety net is gone. For many people Social Security will only be a small part of their retirement. These people can invest their disposable income in the many options available, IRAs, 401(k)s, et cetera. Those that are not as well off and are not able to put much away on their own should be able to count on a known amount from Social Security."

Before continuing, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), my colleague, who is a member of the Committee on Ways and Means and has really tackled this threat to Social Security with great vigor, and I appreciate his organizing this evening's Special Order with me.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Wisconsin again for her diligence and hard work in this effort and deeply appreciate the opportunity to be here this evening.

I honestly believe that Congress should do more of this. I hope that people all across this country are listening to these heartfelt responses from our constituents, and in so many ways, they are often more eloquent than any Member of the United States Congress because their needs and concerns are so heartfelt and real, and this is what I think makes this such a special evening for this Special Order.

I would just like to read one more letter that I have, with the gentlewoman's permission, and this is from a woman in Newington in my district

who writes, I am very concerned about what Mr. Bush is doing to the country. I have been working for 37 years, and I have been at my current position for 28 years. From day one, I was told that I would be given a pension at the end of my tenure. Over the years, the company has changed hands and, in fact, changed leaders. Now, the pension has been changed to a cash balance. Because of this change, I will be getting about one-quarter of what I would have been getting in my pension, and now, Mr. Bush claims that under his privatization plan, Social Security benefits would go up. Yet the Congressional Budget Office says Bush's privatization plan will cut benefits by 45 percent or more for seniors. The Bush plan will reduce benefits for all seniors, even those who choose not to invest in private accounts. I am too old to build up a substantial plan and account. Have we not been traumatized enough under this man? I do not want you to vote on this plan or make such a drastic change to the system. If the politicians put a lock on it, like Mr. Gore wanted to, we most likely would not be in this situation. Mr. Bush should stop spending the money. We have the money for Iraq but not for our seniors in this country. I am asking you, please, not to vote for this.

She, like so many others we have heard tonight, I think speaks to what is their concern. Some of our colleagues on the other side have said that these are fear tactics. Hardly.

Grace Vigneau again points out that we were a strong generation that persevered through the Great Depression, a Second World War, the Korean and Vietnam Wars. We raised families, rebuilt these countries. We do not scare easy. What we want is the truth. What we need, I think, is for all of us to come together with an understanding, and it is my sincere hope that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are listening, as well as the President.

President Roosevelt said it best. He said he was concerned that they had become frozen in the ice of their own indifference. Frozen in the ice of their own indifference towards collapsing pensions and shriveled up savings that, for the most part, have to go for the care of your health. Indifference to the 45 million people in this country that are uninsured, indifference to the women and minorities whose drops off in benefits will be so dramatic.

That is why the voices of these citizens need to be heard and why this Congress needs to act in a responsible and bipartisan manner in order to continue to strengthen and preserve the most successful social program and governmental program in the history of this country.

Again, I thank the gentlewoman for providing us the opportunity to discuss these letters and the concern of our constituents.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) mentioned the fear tactics that are being used.

The President, in advocating for his privatization, has made the case or attempted to that Social Security faces an impending crisis, and I just want to let the administration know I think the American public sees through this fear tactic, this scare tactic.

I just want to read one quick letter on that point from Robert from Madison in my district. As he writes, "Bush has in recent weeks been repeatedly inflating the significance of 2018 and 2042, especially the early date, so as to imply that Social Security is in imminent danger of bankruptcy and must be overhauled very soon. The sheer urgency of Bush's tone is unsettlingly consistent with his demonstrated tendency to conjure up a crisis where none exists, as he did during the run-up to the war with Iraq."

"The overblown nature of Bush's alarms over Social Security is reflected in the Social Security trustee's estimate that, even if nothing drastic is done between now and 2042, Social Security will still be able to pay retirees" almost 75 percent "of the promised amount" and "this timeline hardly suggests any crisis that necessitates pounding away at a need to overhaul Social Security" or dismantle it "now."

I would like to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), my colleague.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin raises this approach of fear tactics, and of course, it leads to the question, well, why? Why does the President, why do some of our colleagues, why are people trying to change this program that our constituents tell us over and over again has meant the difference between dignity and destitution for them? Why do they want to change a program that works so well?

The spokesman from the White House and the President himself have said that privatization is not likely to help the finances of Social Security, but then they have gone on to say, well, even if it does not, it is the right thing to do. Then we have these youngsters at some of the President's road shows around the country chanting, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Social Security has got to go."

We begin to understand what this is about. It is to overturn a program that they find ideologically unacceptable.

Leslie from Milltown, New Jersey, says, I think we have evidence that the motivation of these politicians for proposing individualized private accounts is driven by ideology, not by a real concern for strengthening and preserving Social Security.

That ideology I think is best summed up with the phrase, you are on your own. You are on your own and you will do well in the market. You are smarter than the market and you will be fine.

Let me tell my colleagues, my constituents say over and over again, we have tried private accounts. Before 1935 you were entitled to invest as much as you wanted in private accounts to prepare for your retirement, and you

know what, a majority of the elderly lived below the poverty line. That is why we have Social Security. It is a program that is, I think, one of the most successful we have had in America.

Let me just finish by saying we have had testimonials from so many of our constituents. Let me give a personal one.

My father died when I was six, without insurance, without a pension. My sister and mother and I received Social Security survivor benefits. She was teaching at a junior college on a small teacher's salary. That made an enormous difference.

When I talk about Pat from Lincroft who said Social Security for her brother's children brought dignity, whereas when her father had died before Social Security came into place, they had to live as charity cases, I know what she is talking about.

Social Security binds this country together in a way that no other program that has come out of this body has, and we should not throw it out just because of some ideological whim which is what is happening right now. That is why the country is so upset, why we are getting so much mail.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, if the gentlewoman would yield, on that point, we heard the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) discuss that earlier, that even the President's so-called privatization plan does nothing to close the gap or the shortfalls that potentially exist in Social Security if we do not act on a bipartisan basis.

So to the gentleman's point, this is all about ideology and politics and not substantively about doing what is in the best interest of the American public. I think that is what has citizens so outraged, that this seems to be from the very get-go, from whether you go back to Hoover and Landon and Friedman and Stockman, who said we must starve the beast, that beast being Social Security, that is what has American citizens outraged at this proposal. That is what has them writing thousands of letters to each and every one of us because of their deep-seated concern of where this administration is taking us, to a "me" society versus "us."

The gentleman said it very eloquently and passionately, and again, I want to thank the gentlewoman for arranging this dialogue and these letters which I hope we continue to come to the floor and discuss.

□ 2200

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I would like to thank all of my colleagues who joined me here tonight in giving voice to these very real, very human stories. These are real letters from real people, and privatization would have a real and ultimately negative effect on their lives.

I know that those who seek to dismantle the Social Security System must receive similar letters, and I sincerely hope that they pause and con-

sider what Social Security means to Americans. It is not an arbitrary government program. Social Security is a support system, it is an insurance program, and, in many instances, Social Security is the difference between a comfortable life and a life of poverty. We must do all that we can to protect this vital safety net, this lifeline.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3, TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS

Mrs. CAPITO (during the Special Order of Ms. BALDWIN), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-14) on the resolution (H. Res. 140) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CARSON (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of medical reasons.

Ms. HERSETH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and March 9 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. STUPAK (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Mr. LEACH (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of illness in the family.

Mr. RAMSTAD (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of complications from eye surgery.

Mr. TIBERI (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for March 9 until 5:30 p.m. on account of his traveling to his district with the President.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. CAPPS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KIND, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, March 9.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and March 9 and 10.

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today and March 9.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today and March 9 and 10.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today and March 9.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, March 9.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONAWAY, for 5 minutes, March 10.

Mr. MICA, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 9, 2005, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1098. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Rules Relating to Review of National Futures Association Decisions in Disciplinary, Membership Denial, Registration and Member Responsibility Actions (RIN: 3038-AC12) received February 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1099. A letter from the Assistant Chief, WCB/TAPD, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Rural Health Care Support Mechanism [WC Docket No. 02-60] received February 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1100. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Grayville, Illinois) [MB Docket No. 04-368; RM-11067] (Alamogordo, New Mexico) [MB Docket No. 04-369; RM-11068] received February 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1101. A letter from the Legal Advisor, WTB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band [Dkt.02-55] Consolidating the 800 and 900 MHz Industrial /Land Transportation and Business Pool Channels; Amendment of Part 2 of the Rules to Allocate Spectrum Below 3 GHz for Mobile and Fixed Services to Support the Introduction of New Advanced Wireless Services [Dkt.00-258] Petition for Rule Making of the Wireless Information Networks Forum Concerning the Unlicensed Personal Communications Service [RM-9498] Petition for Rule Making of UT Starcom, Inc. Concerning the Unlicensed Personal Communications Service

[RM-10024] Amendment of Section 2.106 of the Rules to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1102. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Montana Regulatory Program [MT-024-FOR] received February 10, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1103. A letter from the Deputy Director of Budget, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Payment in Lieu of Taxes (RIN: 1093-AA09) received February 15, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1104. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel Lottery in Areas 542 and 543 [Docket No. 041202338-4338-01; I.D. 011305B] received February 24, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1105. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 041202338-4338-01; I.D. 011305A] received February 24, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1106. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Closure [Docket No. 001005281-0369-02; I.D. 012105B] received February 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1107. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A320 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-18773; Directorate Identifier 2002-NM-312-AD; Amendment 39-13889; AD 2004-25-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 3, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1108. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Warrensburg, MO. [Docket No. FAA-2004-19333; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-62] received March 3, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1109. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Lexington, MO. [Docket No. FAA-2004-19575; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-65] received March 3, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1110. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Fremont, NE. [Docket No. FAA-2004-18818; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-44] received March 3, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1111. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Burwell, NE. [Docket No. FAA-2004-18823; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-49] received March 3, 2005, pursu-

ant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1112. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management, Office of Regulations Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Payment for Non-VA Physician and Other Health Care Professional Services Associated with Either Outpatient or Inpatient Care Provided at Non-VA Facilities (RIN: 2900-AK94) received February 2, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1113. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Management, Office of Regulations Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Board of Veterans' Appeals: Appeals Regulations, Rules of Practice; Delegations of Authority (RIN: 2900-AL96) received February 24, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1114. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Uniform Capitalization of Interest Expense in Safe Harbor and Leaseback Transactions [TD 9179] (RIN: 1545-BB62) received February 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1115. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits [TD 9184] (RIN: 1545-BC71) received February 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1116. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Qualified Interests [TD 9181] (RIN: 1545-BB72) received February 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1117. A letter from the Chair of the Board of Directors, Office of Compliance, transmitting notice of adoption of substantive regulations under Section 304(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 for publication in the Congressional Record, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1384(b)(3); jointly to the Committees on House Administration and Education and the Workforce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Supplemental report on H.R. 3. A bill to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes (Rept. 109-12 Pt. 2).

Mr. THOMAS: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 996. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the extension of highway-related taxes and trust funds, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109-13). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mrs. CAPITO: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 140. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes (Rept. 109-14). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. NUSSLE:

H.R. 1140. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit financial institutions to determine their interest expense deduction without regard to tax-exempt bonds issued to provide certain small loans for health care or educational purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MACK, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. BERKLEY):

H.R. 1141. A bill to strengthen sanctions against the Government of Syria, to establish a program to support a transition to a democratically elected government in Syria and the restoration of sovereignty and democratic rule in Lebanon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Ways and Means, and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOLEY (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. FORBES, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. CANNON, and Mr. CALVERT):

H.R. 1142. A bill to protect children from exploitive child modeling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WEINER (for himself, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MCNULTY, and Mr. OTTER):

H.R. 1143. A bill to prohibit United States assistance for the Palestinian Authority and for programs, projects, and activities in the West Bank and Gaza, unless certain conditions are met; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 1144. A bill to continue State coverage of Medicaid prescription drug coverage to Medicare dual eligible beneficiaries for 6 months while still allowing the Medicare part D benefit to be implemented as scheduled; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BACA (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. FORD, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BERRY, and Mr. HINOJOSA):

H.R. 1145. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the rating system of the video game industry and assess their labeling practices to determine if such practices are unfair or deceptive; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PAUL:

H.R. 1146. A bill to end membership of the United States in the United Nations; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. BACA:

H.R. 1147. A bill to provide benefits to public safety officers who die or become disabled

as a result of certain injuries; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BORDALLO (for herself, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN):

H.R. 1148. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to designate Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as historically underutilized business zones (HUBZones); to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida:

H.R. 1149. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study of the accuracy of expiration dates on certain prescription drugs maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida:

H.R. 1150. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to individuals for certain long-term care expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WELDON of Florida (for himself, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. HERGER, Mr. AKIN, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. FEENEY, Ms. HART, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Ms. FOXX, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. PITTS, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. SODREL, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. COX, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. RENZI, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. MICA, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. KELLER, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HYDE, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, and Mr. PLATTS):

H.R. 1151. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide the protections of habeas corpus for certain incapacitated individuals whose life is in jeopardy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mrs. BONO, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. DREIER):

H.R. 1152. A bill to redesignate the dam located on the Santa Ana River as the "Victor V. Veysey Dam"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CAPUANO (for himself, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. KANJORSKI, and Mr. CROWLEY):

H.R. 1153. A bill to extend the terrorism insurance program of the Department of the Treasury; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. CUBIN:

H.R. 1154. A bill to provide for the retention of the name of the geologic formation known as "Devils Tower" at the Devils Tower National Monument in the State of Wyoming; to the Committee on Resources.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. WEINER, Ms. LEE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. FARR, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CASE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. OLVER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. SABO, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. WU, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. HOLT, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 1155. A bill to provide additional protections for National Forest System lands in Alaska through the designation of wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, Land Use Designation II management areas, restoration areas, special management areas, and additional components of the national wild and scenic rivers system; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. GILLMOR (for himself and Mr. GALLEGLY):

H.R. 1156. A bill to amend title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase teacher familiarity with the educational needs of gifted and talented students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. OTTER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HOLT, Ms. WATSON, Ms. LEE, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. FARR, Mr. MEEHAN, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. OLVER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KIND, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. OWENS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FILNER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. WATERS, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. PAUL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. STARK, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. MCNULTY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CLAY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. CARSON, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. WYNN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. SABO, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr.

STUPAK, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. CASE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WEINER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 1157. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to exempt bookstores and libraries from orders requiring the production of any tangible things for certain foreign intelligence investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HART (for herself and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H.R. 1158. A bill to reauthorize the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. HEFLEY:

H.R. 1159. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the Colorado Springs, Colorado, metropolitan area; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HERGER:

H.R. 1160. A bill to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through June 30, 2005, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1161. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for employer retirement savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Mr. PORTMAN):

H.R. 1162. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for retirement savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1163. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create Lifetime Savings Accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JONES of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. GOODE):

H.R. 1164. A bill to guarantee the right of individuals to receive Social Security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act in full with an accurate annual cost-of-living adjustment; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KANJORSKI (for himself, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. UDALL of

Colorado, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. NEY):

H.R. 1165. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax to holders of bonds issued to finance land and water reclamation of abandoned mine land areas; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 1166. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the quality of care in skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare Program through development of quality measures and changes in reimbursement; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. KELLY:

H.R. 1167. A bill to amend the Truth in Regulating Act to make permanent the pilot project for the report on rules; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 1168. A bill to ensure that the national instant criminal background check system provides the Federal Bureau of Investigation with information on approved firearms transfers to persons named in the Violent Gang and Terrorist Organization File; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi):

H.R. 1169. A bill to enhance the benefits and protections for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are called or ordered to extended active duty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 1170. A bill to authorize the extension of unconditional and permanent nondiscriminatory treatment (permanent normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky:

H.R. 1171. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the small issuer exception from the tax-exempt bond arbitrage rebate requirement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California (for herself, Mr. CANNON, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. HART):

H.R. 1172. A bill to provide for the protection of unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN of Virginia:

H.R. 1173. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow States to regulate tow truck operations; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SHAW (for himself and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 1174. A bill to improve regional sediment management; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SHIMKUS (for himself, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 1175. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the shortage of medical laboratory personnel; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SOUDER (for himself and Mr. CANTOR):

H.R. 1176. A bill to provide immunity for nonprofit athletic organizations in lawsuits arising from claims of ordinary negligence relating to the passage, adoption, or failure to adopt rules of play for athletic competitions and practices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TERRY:

H.R. 1177. A bill to amend the accountability provisions of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself, Mr. NUNES, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. HERGER, Mr. POMBO, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. CARDOZA, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 1178. A bill to create 4 new permanent judgeships for the eastern district of California; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOEKSTRA:

H. Res. 138. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Intelligence in the One Hundred Ninth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GINGREY:

H. Res. 139. A resolution electing a certain Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H. Res. 141. A resolution honoring the life of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr.

KIRK, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Ms. CARSON, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. HALL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WYNN, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. WU, Ms. WATSON, Mr. SKELTON, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. REYES, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GOODE, Mr. DENT, Mr. TANNER, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. SHIMKUS, Ms. BEAN, Mr. HYDE, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. WELLER, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. EVANS, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. GUTIERREZ):

H. Res. 142. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a "Rotary International Day" and celebrating and honoring Rotary International on the occasion of its centennial anniversary; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER (for herself, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. OSBORNE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. ACKERMAN):

H. Res. 143. A resolution recognizing and commending the courage of Iraqi women candidates in the January 30, 2005, Iraqi elections; to the Committee on International Relations.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MARKEY:

H.R. 1179. A bill for the relief of Obain Attouman; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PLATTS:

H.R. 1180. A bill for the relief of certain aliens who were aboard the Golden Venture; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to the public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 8: Mr. MURPHY, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. COBLE, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. NEY, Mr. MCHENRY, Ms. FOXX, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 11: Mr. WALSH, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas.

H.R. 19: Mr. SHADEGG.

H.R. 21: Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. LINDER.

H.R. 22: Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. FARR, Mr. STARK, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Ms. HOOLEY, and Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 25: Mr. BAKER and Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 29: Mr. SHADEGG.

H.R. 32: Mr. KANJORSKI, Ms. HART, Mrs. BONO, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. CHOCOLA.

H.R. 37: Mr. MANZULLO.

H.R. 42: Mr. MCHENRY.

H.R. 64: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 65: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina and Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 68: Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 111: Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. BARROW, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. CANNON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. SWEENEY, and Ms. BEAN.

H.R. 135: Ms. HART, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 136: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. TANCREDO.

H.R. 139: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.

H.R. 151: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. LEE, and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 179: Mr. COX.

H.R. 181: Mr. HOSTETTLER and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 216: Mr. RENZI, Mr. WAMP, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 282: Mr. SHAW, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MACK, Ms. BEAN, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 302: Mr. PORTER.

H.R. 303: Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BARROW, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. GOODE, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 307: Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 313: Mrs. EMERSON and Mr. MORAN of Kansas.

H.R. 314: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, and Mr. SKELTON.

H.R. 328: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SABO, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 333: Mr. SIMPSON, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. PASTOR.

H.R. 354: Mr. SULLIVAN.

H.R. 358: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. BEAN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. McNULTY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. COX, and Mr. NORWOOD.

H.R. 370: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 377: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. GORDON, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 389: Mr. OWENS, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, and Mr. KUHL of New York.

H.R. 405: Mr. HYDE.

H.R. 406: Ms. HART.

H.R. 408: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 420: Mr. MCHENRY.

H.R. 458: Mr. EDWARDS and Mr. CARTER.

H.R. 466: Mr. McHUGH and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 490: Ms. HART.

H.R. 499: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 515: Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. FORD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 524: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 525: Ms. HART, Mr. DELAY, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. KNOLLENBERG.

H.R. 534: Mr. KOLBE and Mr. KUHL of New York.

H.R. 554: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. HOEKSTRA, and Mr. MCHENRY.

H.R. 556: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 557: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 558: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 562: Mr. MENENDEZ.

H.R. 580: Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 583: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 602: Ms. WATSON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. GINGREY, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. WEINER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.

H.R. 616: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 623: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 650: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 658: Mr. WALSH.

H.R. 669: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. BARROW, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, and Mr. STEARNS.

H.R. 670: Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 688: Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 691: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 711: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. HOLT, Ms. LEE, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 712: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 739: Mr. FORTUÑO, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. HALL.

H.R. 740: Mr. FORTUÑO, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. HALL.

H.R. 741: Mr. FORTUÑO, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. HALL.

H.R. 742: Mr. FORTUÑO, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. HALL.

H.R. 748: Mr. PETRI and Mr. LINDER.

H.R. 752: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 754: Mr. ISSA, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CASE, and Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 759: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 762: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 763: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. SKELTON.

H.R. 771: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. ETHERIDGE.

H.R. 793: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 795: Mr. HOLT and Mr. RADANOVICH.

H.R. 798: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. SODREL, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 800: Mr. OXLEY, Mr. TURNER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HALL, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WOLF, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. NEY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. HAYES.

H.R. 809: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 818: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 819: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 820: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 827: Mr. HULSHOF and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 838: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GORDON, Mr. SIMMONS, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 840: Mr. SOUDER.

H.R. 869: Mr. STARK, Mr. GALLEGLY, and Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 871: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 874: Mr. CARTER, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. KOLBE.

H.R. 878: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 880: Mr. POMEROY and Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 881: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. OSBORNE, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. TERRY, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 893: Mr. PASTOR and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 894: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 895: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 896: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. WOLF, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WYNN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 908: Mr. OWENS and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 909: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 920: Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 931: Mr. MCHENRY and Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin.

H.R. 932: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 940: Mr. MACK.

H.R. 952: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. WATSON.

H.R. 970: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WYNN, Mr. CARDOZA, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.

H.R. 972: Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. EVANS, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. WATSON, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. FOLEY, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TANCREDO, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 975: Ms. DeGETTE, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 976: Mr. KOLBE, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 983: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 984: Mr. PASTOR.

H.R. 986: Mr. FORD.

H.R. 997: Mr. PORTMAN and Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 998: Mr. CASE, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, and Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 999: Mr. LEACH, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 1000: Mr. TIBERI, Mr. OXLEY, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 1001: Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. DELAY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.

H.R. 1003: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 1006: Mr. FORTUÑO.

H.R. 1010: Mr. PAUL, Mr. FOSSELLA, and Mr. REHBERG.

H.R. 1042: Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 1059: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1080: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1081: Mr. BERMAN.

H.R. 1092: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 1106: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1124: Mr. SIMMONS and Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 1131: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 1134: Mr. POE, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. AKIN, and Mr. PAUL.

H.J. Res. 10: Ms. HERSETH, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H. Con. Res. 18: Mr. ACKERMAN and Mr. MENENDEZ.

H. Con. Res. 32: Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. MCHENRY.

H. Con. Res. 34: Mr. ISSA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. KING of New York.

H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. KILDEE, Ms. WATSON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. OBERSTAR, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HINCHY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FARR, Mr. CLAY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HONDA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. BOYD, Mr. HOLT, Ms. CARSON, Mr. OLVER, Mr. ROSS, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BACA, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. SIMMONS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. PASTOR.

H. Con. Res. 42: Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mrs. MUSGRAVE.

H. Con. Res. 47: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. GOODE.

H. Con. Res. 70: Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MACK, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. BEAUPREZ.

H. Con. Res. 76: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. PENCE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H. Con. Res. 81: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. SNYDER.

H. Con. Res. 82: Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. WATSON, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. PITTS.

H. Con. Res. 83: Mr. PITTS, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Ms. WATSON, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 22: Mr. MCHENRY and Mr. GOHMERT.

H. Res. 37: Mr. PENCE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ISSA, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. WELLER.

H. Res. 38: Mr. MCHENRY.

H. Res. 54: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. MCHENRY.

H. Res. 84: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. BLUNT.

H. Res. 85: Mr. CULBERSON.

H. Res. 90: Mr. EVANS, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 99: Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. WEXLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr.

CHANDLER, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. POE, and Mr. NUNES.

H. Res. 101: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. WYNN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. POE.

H. Res. 108: Mr. ISSA, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. PENCE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H. Res. 119: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. McKEON, and Mr. DREIER.

H. Res. 120: Mr. INSLEE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. PITTS.

H. Res. 131: Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HOYER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MURTHA, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DICKS, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. LEE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. WATT, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. TANNER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. OLVER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. CAPPS, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.

H. Res. 135: Mr. LEACH, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. WELLER, Mr. PENCE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. WATSON, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. TANNER, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. COX, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. WATT, Mr. REGULA, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. HOYER, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. PITTS.